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TODAY: **STYLE**
Fashion Book, Page 11

Decorum of Senate Could Help President

Historically, Chamber Has Shied From Partisan Tactics of the House

By Adam Clymer
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton's strategy for survival depends on the differences between the Senate and the House, differences intended by the framers of the constitution and at least as evident today as they were when the Senate acquitted President Andrew Johnson in 1868.

The constitutional difference is obvious. In terms of impeachment, on Saturday it took a simple majority of the House to impeach, but it will take a two-thirds majority of the Senate to convict if the trial goes to a verdict. The 67-vote requirement, in a Senate with only 55 Republicans, invites the Senate solution so ardently desired by the White House.

But the political differences are as important. The Senate's considerable sense of self-importance and dignity makes many members fear a trial that would have to deal with the physical details of Mr. Clinton's affair with Monica Lewinsky. And the negotiating process needed to agree on something more than "guilty" or "not guilty" is at home in the Senate. Its rules emphasize the rights of individual senators and invite compromise.

Effective leadership there is the art of herding cats. Senators who get things done make deals across party lines to succeed. In the House, majority parties bully those in the minority. Senators also have to represent constituents of the other party; in the House, partisan gerrymandering has made it possible to play to only one side.

But there was an air in Washington — as in the nation — that something had gone off the rails this weekend. With articles of impeachment voted by scant partisan margins, 228 to 206 and 221 to 212, it seemed like a European parliament in a crisis.

Democrats accused the House Republican majority of a naked political power play to undo the election of a president they despised. Republicans insisted that that was nonsense, that if Mr. Clinton was removed from office by the Senate they would be left with another Democrat, Al Gore, as president. And Representative Jim Leach of Iowa, a reluctant vote for impeachment, said that most Republicans assumed that if Mr. Clinton was ousted, the Democrats "would be dramatically benefited."

But if they were not making political calculations — and there is little evidence that most Republicans did not take their responsibility seriously — the House may reflect something at least as bad as naked ambition. Maybe worse.

Instead, the House that was displayed to the nation Saturday seemed to represent an extreme level of disengagement.

To one faction, it was obvious that the president had committed perjury and obstructed justice, and no less transparent that these were offenses requiring his impeachment, trial and removal from office. To the other, the offenses may have seemed likely, if not proven, but the crimes fell well short of the standard needed for impeachment.

When only 17 representatives, 12 Republicans and 5 Democrats, dissented from the party line as they did on the charge of obstruction of justice, these

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TROUBLE WITH CHINA — The ICO Global Challenger, flying Monday through the Himalayas on a round-the-world attempt, faced difficulties getting permission to fly through Chinese airspace. Page 6.

Fervor Dims For Nuclear Inspections Inside Iraq

U.S., Pressured to Make A Gesture to UN Panel, Would Rely on Sensors

By Barbara Crossette
New York Times Service

UNITED NATIONS, New York — The Clinton administration, under pressure to make some kind of concession to other members of the Security Council after the bombing of Iraq, appears ready to close the file on nuclear inspections, diplomats and independent arms control experts said Monday.

In line with this policy change, nuclear experts also say that the U.S. Energy Department is stepping up efforts at its Los Alamos and Livermore nuclear research laboratories to develop more sophisticated sensors for environmental monitoring of Iraq, the system the United Nations would have to rely on after most spot inspections end.

For a year, the International Atomic Energy Agency has been reporting that it cannot find evidence of a nuclear weapons program in Iraq, which would

allow the Security Council to end a period of inspections that began in 1991 and shift to a long-term monitoring program. The United States has blocked all Council efforts to do this.

But by the time the Security Council assembled Monday morning to begin its assessment of where the United Nations goes next in Iraq, it was apparent to diplomats that the United States would have to compromise on something if other arms inspections — of biological, chemical and missile systems — are to be reinstated.

The United Nations Special Commission, led by Richard Butler, is in charge of those programs. Supporters of Iraq in the Security Council are pressing for Mr. Butler's resignation, a move the Clinton administration and Britain flatly oppose. There are also calls for a

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Clinton Gains Support and Republicans Slide in Poll

By Adam Nagourney
with Michael R. Kagay
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — A solid majority of Americans believe that the impeachment of President Bill Clinton was adequate punishment and want the Senate to resolve the case without a trial and without removing him from office, according to the latest New York Times/CBS News Poll.

The poll provided another piece of evidence of the startling political resilience of Mr. Clinton. One day after he became the second president in the nation's history to be impeached, 72 percent of respondents said they supported

Determined Republicans and a defiant Clinton led to the impeachment vote. Page 2. • White House "encouraged" by Senate soundings. Page 6.

proved of how he was handling his job. Mr. Clinton's job approval rating actually increased since last week, when it was 66 percent.

One of the biggest political concerns of Mr. Clinton's advisers is that the impeachment vote might encourage a round of demands for his resignation. But the poll found only limited support for resignation: 32 percent of respondents said it would be better for the nation if the president stepped down, while 65 percent said he should finish his term.

This poll found again that the Republican Party was paying a political price for its pursuit of Mr. Clinton. The party is now viewed unfavorably by 58 percent of respondents, up from 52 percent last week. That is the worst standing the party has posted in the 14 years since The Times and CBS first began asking respondents the question. The public

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Beijing Imprisons 2 More Dissidents

They Are Sentenced for Trying To Form First Opposition Party

By John Pomfret
Washington Post Service



Pro-democracy activists holding a portrait of one of the jailed dissidents, Xu Wenli, demonstrated in front of government headquarters in Hong Kong on Monday.

BEIJING — Chinese courts on Monday sentenced two leading dissidents to lengthy prison terms for attempting to start the country's first opposition party.

In meting out sentences of 13 years to Xu Wenli and 11 years to Wang Youcai for attempting to "overthrow state power," the Communist government issued a harsh reminder to China's 1.3 billion people that it would not tolerate organized dissent. Last week, President Jiang Zemin vowed to "nip" such subversion "in the bud."

A third leading dissident was expected to be sentenced Tuesday.

But in sentencing these men, China raised questions about its commitment to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which Beijing signed in October. The covenant enshrines freedom of association as one of its main tenets.

The latest crackdown also raises questions about the Western policy of friendly engagement with China to improve its human rights record. The U.S. Embassy, which has been at the forefront of this policy, branded Mr. Xu's 13-year sentence "deplorable" and "extremely harsh."

"My husband is not guilty," said He Xintong, Mr. Xu's wife, who added that Mr. Xu would not appeal his verdict because he did not recognize the act of organizing an opposition party as a crime in the first place. "It is China which is breaking the law."

"The verdict made me feel numb all over," said Hu Jiangxia, Mr. Wang's wife, who received a phone call Monday afternoon informing her of Mr. Wang's sentence. "These people have no conscience."

The verdicts — issued against Mr. Xu in Beijing and

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IMF Cuts World Growth Forecast as Crisis Lingers

By Mitchell Martin
International Herald Tribune

NEW YORK — The International Monetary Fund reduced its estimate for 1999 world economic growth to 2.2 percent from 2.5 percent on Monday, indicating the effects of the financial crisis that began last year in Asia would linger and bringing its forecast into line with those of private-sector economists.

"While the danger of a global recession does seem to have diminished,

the supply of funds to most emerging-market economies is still sharply reduced, and conditions in financial markets remain fragile," the fund said in a report. "It would therefore be premature to consider the difficulties to be over."

Nonetheless, the fund, which works to defuse currency problems and promote free trade, advised the U.S. Federal Reserve Board not to reduce interest rates. The policy-making Federal Open Market Committee is to meet Tuesday.

"For the time being, the advice is to

keep monetary policy on hold," Reuters quoted Flemming Larsen, deputy director of the IMF's research department, as having said in Washington.

Recent rate cuts were "very useful" in restoring calm to global financial markets, he said, but the U.S. economy's growth should now slow to a "sustainable position."

The report pegged 1998 U.S. growth at 3.6 percent, a rate that many economists consider impossible to maintain without creating inflationary pressures.

The report cited several areas of risk, including deteriorating conditions in Japan. The IMF estimated the Japanese economy would shrink 0.5 percent next year after contracting 2.8 percent this year. The outlook for U.S. growth in 1999 was trimmed to 1.8 percent from 2 percent in the IMF's September estimate, while the euro-area countries are seen expanding at a combined 2.4 percent rate, down from 2.8 percent.

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U.S. Targets EU Goods in Banana Battle

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

BRUSSELS — The United States on Monday published a list of European products that it intends to hit with 100 percent tariffs early next year in retaliation for what it says is discriminatory policy on EU banana imports.

The European Union said the proposed sanctions were illegal but did not immediately threaten to counter with measures that could result in the biggest trans-Atlantic trade battle in years.

Instead the European Commission, the executive body of the EU, said it would continue its attempts to have the case reviewed by the World Trade Organization.

The EU commissioner in charge of trade issues, Sir Leon Brittan, said of the U.S. action, taken under section 301 of

the Trade Act: "It is time to take action against the pernicious and unlawful effect of this wholly unilateral legislation."

A U.S.-EU summit conference in Washington over the weekend failed to head off the crisis, which could drive a wide range of European products, from greeting cards to handbags, off American store shelves by effectively doubling their prices. The list ranges from Louis Vuitton handbags from France to Pecorino cheese from Italy to bath oils, candles, bed linens, sweaters and other items from across the EU.

"This list is arbitrary in what it covers and arbitrary in its value," Sir Leon said. "It threatens European firms and jobs which have no link with the banana dispute whatsoever. Put simply, it is an example of unilateralism at its worst."

Peter Scher, U.S. special trade am-

bassador, said the list of products was selected with a view to inflicting cost on the EU while minimizing the impact on U.S. business and jobs.

"The action we are announcing today is intended to send a clear and unambiguous message that the United States will expect countries to meet their obligations, just as we meet ours," he said.

The case arises from the EU's policy of giving preference to banana imports from former European colonies in the Caribbean and elsewhere, to what Washington says is the detriment of Latin American producers whose products are marketed by two U.S. companies, Dole Food Co. and Chiquita Brands International. The companies say they have lost hundreds of millions of dollars in

See BANANAS, Page 6

Primakov Seeks Strategic Triangle

Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov of Russia said Monday that he favored a "strategic triangle" involving China, Russia and India to ensure regional stability. He spoke at the start of an official two-day visit that saw Russia and India sign an accord extending bilateral military cooperation to 2010. "A lot depends in the region on the policies of China, Russia and India," Mr. Primakov said. "If we succeed in establishing a strategic triangle, it will be very good."

The visit, the first by a Russian leader to India since New Delhi's nuclear tests in May, was overshadowed by the bombing of Iraq by the United States and Britain. Mr. Primakov was asked how Russia would react to renewed air strikes. "We will never change our position," he said. "We are very negative about the use of force bypassing the Security Council." Page 5.

U.S.-Born Octuplets

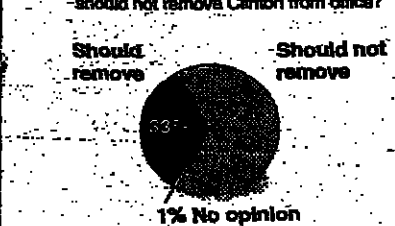
A woman gave birth to eight babies Sunday in Houston, Texas. Nikem Chukwu, 27, a native of Nigeria, had taken fertility drugs. The infants were listed in critical condition Monday, but Dr. Patti Savrick, the pediatrician looking after them, said: "They're doing as well as could be expected." Page 3.

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The IHT on-line: www.ihtron.com

U.S. Public Still Opposes Ouster

Following President Clinton's impeachment by the House of Representatives, most Americans believe that he should be punished for his behavior but should not be forced from office, according to a new Washington Post-ABC News poll.

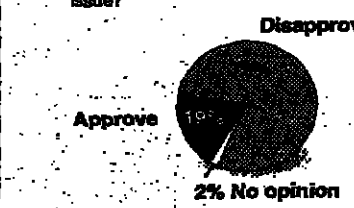
President Clinton faces trial by the U.S. Senate, which will decide whether or not he should be removed from office. Do you think the Senate should or should not remove Clinton from office?



This Washington Post-ABC News poll is based on telephone interviews with 1,285 randomly selected adults nationwide conducted Dec. 19-20. The margin of error for overall results is plus or minus 3 percentage points. Source: Washington Post/ABC News

The poll also found that an overwhelming majority of Americans disapprove of what Clinton has called the politics of personal destruction.

As you may know, there has been increased attention lately on whether elected officials have had commercial affairs. Do you approve or disapprove of the attention being paid to this issue?



This Washington Post-ABC News poll is based on telephone interviews with 1,285 randomly selected adults nationwide conducted Dec. 19-20. The margin of error for overall results is plus or minus 3 percentage points. Source: Washington Post/ABC News

Newstand Prices

Bahrain	1,000 BD	Malta	255 G
Cyprus	C £ 1.00	Nigeria	2900 Naira
Denmark	17 DKr	Oman	1,250 OR
Finland	12.00 FM	Qatar	10.00 QR
Gibraltar	0.85	Rep. Ireland	IR £1.10
Great Britain	UK £1.00	Saudi Arabia	10 SR
Egypt	E £ 5.50	S. Africa	R16 and VAT
Jordan	1,250 JD	U.A.E.	10.00 Dh
Korea	K ₩ 94.180	U.S.M. (Est.)	\$ 1.20
Kuwait	700 Fils	Zimbabwe	Zn \$40.00

Israeli Parliament Votes in Favor of Early Election

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

JERUSALEM — The Israeli Parliament voted overwhelmingly Monday to move to an early election after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu failed to secure broad support for his peace policies with the Palestinians.

The vote capped a chaotic session of the 120-member Knesset, where Mr. Netanyahu's rightist coalition has crumbled over the Wye River land-for-security accord, he signed in October

with Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian president, and which he has now frozen.

The opposition bill passed a first reading on a roll-call vote by 81 to 30, with 4 abstentions and 5 members absent.

Members of Mr. Netanyahu's Likud party backed the bill, acknowledging that the embattled Israeli leader could no longer command a stable majority.

The vote — which Mr. Netanyahu said he would not attempt to negate in two subsequent readings mandated by

law — came after a fruitless last-minute appeal from the prime minister for a national unity government. Slumped in his seat at the Knesset head table, Mr. Netanyahu cast a vote in favor of the elections bill moved by the opposition Labor Party.

Shortly before the vote, the Labor leader, Ehud Barak, rejected Mr. Netanyahu's dramatic call for a 72-hour recess to explore the chances for a national unity government. "The correct

way is to go to early elections," Mr. Barak declared in one of the few bushed moments of a rowdy debate.

Members also rejected an appeal by Mr. Netanyahu for cross-party backing for five conditions he has set before the Palestinians for resuming the Wye deal. That call was defeated by a vote of 56 to 48 with 2 abstentions.

The early elections bill will require

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Impeachment of a President / How It All Happened

The Road to the Vote: Determined Republicans and a Defiant Clinton

By Jill Abramson, Lizette Alvarez, Richard L. Berke, John M. Broder and Don Van Natta Jr.
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — It appeared to be the ultimate comeback in a career marked by seemingly miraculous political resurrections. The night of Tuesday, Nov. 3, was a time of celebration at the White House. Bill Clinton had again defied the odds, embarrassed the experts and vanquished his political enemies.

As election results poured in, it became clear that Mr. Clinton, though not on the ballot, had won a smashing victory over the Republicans who had bet on his impeachment.

The president gathered with friends and aides in his chief of staff's office to revel in the returns, one of those there recalled, chewing on cigars, drinking wine and delighting in the victory until 2:30 in the morning. The public had spoken. Surely the Republicans must finally heed his voice.

But the despair in the Republican camp was tempered by determination. The next afternoon, Representative Henry Hyde, Republican of Illinois, the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee that would soon conduct hearings on impeaching the president, dialed a conference call from a meeting room in the O'Hare Airport Hilton in Chicago.

After each of the 20 other Republicans on the committee clicked onto the line, Mr. Hyde somberly delivered his marching orders. "We took a shattering loss in the elections," he told his colleagues, several of them recounted last week. "But we have a constitutional duty to carry out, and we always said the election would have no bearing on it. We will move forward."

Mr. Clinton and his allies badly misread the resolve of Mr. Hyde and other Republican leaders to sail into the wind of hostile public opinion. To this day, the president's friends say, Mr. Clinton, the most poll-driven politician ever to rise to the presidency, is mystified that Republicans in Congress would defy the poll-tested will of the people.

In the final days before Saturday's vote, many wavering Republicans argued that they could not trust a president who had stood in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in January and angrily denied having sexual relations with "that woman, Miss Lewinsky." That public lie was not among the impeachment charges, but it stiffened the resolve of the president's opponents.

"That is something a president should never do," a senior adviser who counts himself a friend of Mr. Clinton, said of the president's defiance that day. "That's most troubling to me. I am still working through forgiving him for it."

But in the view of many, neither did his opponents bring credit upon themselves. Some say Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, sacrificed his reputation for fairness and civility in his relentless pursuit of the president.

House Republicans, by refusing to allow a censure measure to reach the House floor and by forcing a partisan vote that succeeded on only two of four impeachment counts, have risked further erosion of their falling public support.

In interviews with the president's advisers, who helped formulate his strategy for dealing with the legal and political crisis, and with his foes, both in the independent counsel's office and in the Republican congressional leadership, it is apparent that the impeachment vote was inevitable.

For example, Mr. Clinton surprised even some of his own legal advisers by stiffening his denials in the face of ever-more-tenacious questions from Mr. Starr and, later, Mr. Hyde. And Mr. Hyde, whose abilities and determination were underestimated in the White House, played a more pivotal role than is generally recognized, pushing impeachment forward as his party's leadership was plunged into post-election disarray.

"I've always believed that impeachment was avoidable," Representative Jim Leach, an Iowa Republican, said last week before voting to impeach Mr. Clinton. "But at each stage, the

combination of congressional action and executive response worked against bringing closure at an earlier moment."

Moments before Mr. Clinton swore to tell the truth to a federal grand jury on Aug. 17, David Kendall, the president's personal lawyer, asked to speak privately with Mr. Starr in a hallway outside the White House Map Room.

Mr. Kendall told Mr. Starr that the president was prepared to acknowledge that he had an inappropriate relationship with Monica Lewinsky, according to several people with direct knowledge of the encounter. "But," Mr. Kendall warned Mr. Starr, "if you go into details, I will fight you to the knife, both here and publicly."

And so the president offered what he viewed as a concession, undermined by a threat. But Mr. Starr and his fellow decided to press the president on the details of the relationship; these were critical to the definition of "sexual relations" allowed by the judge in Mr. Clinton's deposition in the Paula Jones sexual harassment suit.

"It was clear that the president would only make a limited statement, refuse to provide any details and try to run out the clock," recalled Charles Bakaly 3d, Mr. Starr's spokesman. "And we saw that as an attempt by the president to defy both the prosecutors and the truth."

Before the grand jury appearance, one of Mr. Clinton's lawyers had strongly counseled him to refuse to testify. But the president was swayed by polls that showed he would put his 70 percent approval ratings at risk by refusing to testify or by exercising his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination.

Mr. Clinton's lawyers also told the president that it would be suicidal for him to lie to the federal grand jury.

"For the president of the United States to lie before a grand jury is a big deal," a longtime adviser of the president said. "I don't care if the lie is about a fender-bender or about sex. We always knew that perjury before a grand jury was a dastardly, very serious act that most people would not tolerate."

In the weekend before his testimony, the president's lawyers acknowledged an inappropriate relationship with Ms. Lewinsky and then not answer any specific questions about the nature of the sexual contact.

But in the four hours of grand jury testimony, the president surprised his lawyers by straying from the plan and maintaining that Ms. Lewinsky performed sexual acts on him while he never touched her in a sexual manner, several advisers said. On several points, Mr. Clinton's testimony and Ms. Lewinsky's contradicted each other.

At the end of Mr. Clinton's testimony, the prosecutors gathered in their offices. When Mr. Starr repeated Mr. Kendall's threat, "there was an audible gasp" among the 30 lawyers present, said Ronald Rotunda, an aide to Mr. Starr.

On Aug. 18, Mr. Starr's prosecutors decided to send to the House of Representatives an impeachment referral that would accuse the president of lying repeatedly to the grand jury.

Not long afterward, Mr. Clinton's lawyers received a transcript of Ms. Lewinsky's grand jury testimony. They were shocked to read her detailed account contradicting the president's description of their physical contact.

What Mr. Clinton's lawyers did not know, several of his advisers said, was whether Ms. Lewinsky was exaggerating or whether Mr. Clinton had misled his own legal team.

There was another problem that confronted the president, his advisers conceded. Many Republicans and even some Democrats doubted his word.

Mr. Clinton and his allies dismissed the threat of impeachment as a partisan exercise. But the die was cast.

The next miscalculations were made by Mr. Starr and the Republicans in Congress. Two Starr deputies, Brett Kavanaugh and Stephen Bates, had been assigned to write what became the 445-page Starr report.

"This was not 'Lady Chatterley's Lover,'" said Mr. Rotunda, the aide to Mr. Starr. "It was necessary to include all those details. The details also made it ring true."

TWO DAYS after the Starr report's delivery, the full House, in a bipartisan vote, chose on Sept. 9 to release its contents, without any member's having read it.

And two days later, Republicans decided to publish it on the Internet.

Just as Mr. Clinton had sometimes overplayed his hand at crucial moments, the Republicans miscalculated the public's reaction to the report. Parents were soon bombarding congressional offices with complaints that their children were reading about oral sex on line.

The Republicans had also refused to provide the president's lawyers with an opportunity to review the Starr report before it was made public. Then, despite grand jury secrecy rules, they released the videotape of the president's testimony. Polls quickly showed that two-thirds of the public continued to support the president while Mr. Starr's approval ratings fell to single digits.

Yet Mr. Clinton's advisers saw a clear danger in the independent counsel's report. Senior White House aides quietly opened discussions with allies on Capitol Hill to seek a censure resolution as an alternative to the Republican intention to open impeachment hearings.

Almost no political analysis predicted the outcome of the November congressional elections. In midterm balloting when the party not occupying the White House typically gains more than 20 House seats, the Republicans lost 5.

The election claimed one immediate casualty, the speaker and Clinton nemesis Newt Gingrich. Three days after Mr. Gingrich announced he was resigning, his heir apparent as speaker, Representative Bob Livingston of Louisiana, telephoned the Republican strategist Ralph Reed for his advice on an agenda for House Republicans.

Mr. Reed recalls telling Mr. Livingston to play down the scandal so the impeachment inquiry would not further taint the party. "I said, 'Lay low—don't let this impeachment bomb blow up in your face.'"

But Mr. Livingston startled Mr. Reed by replying that the march to impeachment was unstoppable, and that it was being orchestrated by Mr. Hyde.

"He goes, 'I don't know how you turn the thing off,'" Mr. Reed said. "Henry's going to hold hearings. And I don't know how you stop that."

At the White House, the administration seemed oblivious to the fact that Mr. Hyde and his committee were plunging ahead.

"The election happened and the media created this delusion that somehow because the Democrats won seats, the Republicans somehow grew less interested in impeachment," said Representative Robert Wexler, a Florida Democrat on the Judiciary Committee. "That

just was never the case. From the start, the Republicans had one goal in mind and only one: to impeach Bill Clinton."

Yet rather than deter Republicans, events after the election made Mr. Clinton's impeachment more likely.

Mr. Gingrich's resignation as speaker removed an embarrased Republican leader. And Mr. Livingston kept a low

profile because he did not want the beginning of his tenure to be marked by impeachment.

Into the leadership void stepped Representative Tom DeLay, the Republican whip and impeachment firebrand. But behind the scenes it was Mr. Hyde who never wavered from his intention to move forward with impeachment.

On Nov. 6, Mr. Hyde and the Republican majority on his committee made their main move: They submitted 81 questions to Mr. Clinton for his response.

The president himself was most responsible for the tone of the answers; one adviser said Mr. Clinton believed the questions were a trap designed to trick him into admitting that he had committed perjury.

The responses were lawyerly and finely drawn. But in carefully avoiding any traps posed by the questions, the president again appeared evasive.

The first question, for example, asked him to "admit or deny" that the president is the chief law-enforcement officer of the United States. Mr. Clinton delicately dodged a direct answer. "The president is often said to be the chief law-enforcement officer," he replied, but that role is not among the duties spelled out by the constitution.

Again, the president's defiance, or determination to defend himself, infuriated his enemies.

Even Representative James Moran, a moderate Democrat from Virginia, found himself cringing at the 81 responses. "Most of us know the president well enough that he has a bear trap of a memory," he said. "And here he was acting like he had Alzheimer's."

Republicans wanted the president to acknowledge that he lied under oath before the grand jury in the Jones deposition. On Dec. 11 in a brief Rose Garden speech, Mr. Clinton tried one more time to appease his doubters. "What I want the American people to know, what I want the Congress to know, is that I am profoundly sorry for all I have done wrong in words and deeds."

Once more he did not specifically address the accusations against him. "He really needed to say that he lied under oath, even if he didn't use the term 'perjury,'" Mr. Moran said.

Last week, in a series of letters and statements, Mr. Hyde made it clear that if a censure resolution had left the committee, he would have opposed bringing it to the floor. The Republicans were not going to back down. "Then it was clear that this thing was wired," said Steve Elmore, chief of staff to Representative Dick Gephardt of Missouri, the minority leader. "Up until that point, I still thought there was some hope that these moderates would band together."

On one level, the answer to the question "How did we get here?" is easy. "It's a consequence, first and foremost, of the president's appalling behavior," said Mike McCurry, the president's former press secretary. "And you can't get around it and you can't explain it."

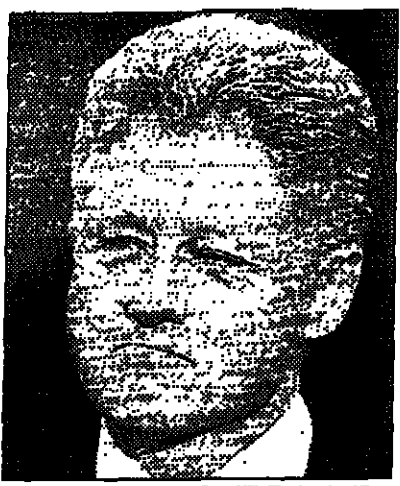
But equally important was the determination of Mr. Clinton's political enemies to not see him slip off the hook one more time, even if that meant an unpopular impeachment vote.

On Monday, Mr. Moran, a Democrat who had harshly criticized Mr. Clinton's behavior, went to see the president's secretary while Mr. Clinton was in the Middle East. "I went and talked with Betty Currie," Mr. Moran said.

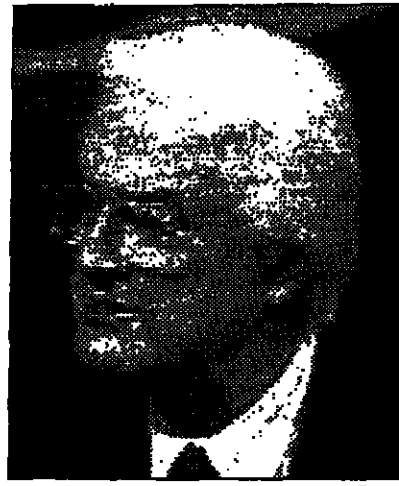
In the impeachment charges, Mr. Clinton was accused of taking part in a plan involving Mrs. Currie to conceal his gifts to Ms. Lewinsky. Mr. Moran needed to know, he told Mrs. Currie, whether Mr. Clinton had "used a good, decent, honest, civil servant to assist him in covering up evidence."

"So I told her all that," Mr. Moran said. "And she said she does not feel he ever lied to her, nor does she feel used, and she feels he is a very good man." The visit help persuade Mr. Moran to vote against impeachment.

As he returned from Israel on Tuesday evening, the president told a friend that he knew that his political fate would soon be before the Senate. The friend admonished the glum-sounding Mr. Clinton. "You've got to fight this thing," the friend said. "I am fighting," the president replied. "I'm fighting, I'm fighting, I'm fighting."



Mr. Clinton is mystified that Republicans would defy the will of the people.



After the Nov. 3 elections, Henry Hyde urged his troops to 'move forward.'



Some say Kenneth Starr sacrificed his reputation in his pursuit of Mr. Clinton.

Mel Fisher, Treasure Hunter, Dies at 76

By Eric Pace
New York Times Service

Mel Fisher, 76, a former chicken farmer who became a Horatio Alger figure among treasure hunters, died Saturday at his home in Key West, Florida.

The cause was complications from cancer, according to the museum in Key West that bears his name.

Mr. Fisher found hundreds of thousands of gold and silver coins, jewelry and bars from old-time Spanish shipwrecks in the waters off Florida. He hunted doggedly for years for the cargo of a single treasure-packed galleon, the Nuestra Señora de Atocha, which sank in 1622 near the Florida Keys. His son, Kane, located the underwater bounty in 1985 and treasure worth roughly \$400 million was recovered.

As a result, a handful of people—including Fisher family members, investors, and a lawyer for Mr. Fisher, David Paul Horan—became millionaires.

When asked why he had chosen his risky and uncertain trade, Mr. Fisher of said, "For the fun, the romance and the adventure." While he searched for treasure, he liked to say, hopefully and repeatedly, "Today is the day." Another, briskier, motto was "Finders keepers."

He was known for his optimism despite skeptical investors, mixed luck in law courts, a leaky houseboat, debts and far greater sorrows: a son and daughter-in-law died when their boat tipped in 1975.

Mr. Fisher's success in discovering treasure and in winning title under traditional admiralty law led environmentalists, historians and archeologists to persuade the U.S. Congress and states to control salvage. In 1987, Congress approved the Abandoned Shipwreck Act, which put an end to admiralty law and conveyed to states the title to wrecks within three miles of the coastline.

By last summer, new regulations were putting shipwrecks off limits, or making them hard to retrieve along the American coastline where laissez-faire had traditionally prevailed. By June 1998, of thousands of known wrecks, fewer than 20 were under salvage permit. Half were Mr. Fisher's.

Last month, Mr. Fisher admitted selling several counterfeit gold coins at his gift shop in Key West, and agreed to repay the prices of the coins—\$2,500 to \$10,000—to purchasers. It had been asserted that they were from a 1733 Spanish fleet that went aground off the Keys.

Mr. Fisher was born in Gary, Indiana, and was trained as a hydraulic engineer at Purdue University and the University

of Alabama. But he turned to chicken farming in California. He later opened a diving shop and began searching for treasure, ultimately moving his family to Florida where he became a serious treasure-hunter and salvager.

Enrique Martinez, 72, Dancer

NEW YORK — Enrique Martinez, 72, a ballet dancer and rehearsal director at the American Ballet Theater who staged the classics for troupes in North and South America and Europe, died Nov. 17 at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center in Manhattan.

The cause was hepatitis, his family said. Mr. Martinez was born in Havana, where he received his ballet training. His teachers included Alicia Alonso and Igor Schwezoff. He was offered a contract with Ballet Theater after Lucia Chase, director of the troupe, saw him performing with a Cuban company. He joined the New York troupe in 1947 and remained with it until 1980.

Mr. Martinez started as a corps dancer and moved up to soloist before becoming a ballet master, ballet director and assistant director of Ballet Theater. He was known for a serenity that did not fail him even when tested by the most volatile of ballet stars.

Europe

City	High	Low	High	Low
Algeria	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Amman	6/11	3/7	6/11	3/7
Antananarivo	7/14	4/11	7/14	4/11
Asmara	7/14	4/11	7/14	4/11
Bahia	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Bamako	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Bangkok	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Batavia	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Bombay	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Brazzaville	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Buenos Aires	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Calcutta	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Cardenas	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Casablanca	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Cebu	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Colon	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Dakar	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Dahomey	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Dar es Salaam	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Delhi	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Djibouti	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Durham	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Geneva	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Hanoi	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Harare	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Heidelberg	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Hong Kong	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Indragiri	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Jakarta	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Johannesburg	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Khartoum	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Kuala Lumpur	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Lagos	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
London	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Luanda	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Manila	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Moscow	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Mumbai	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Nairobi	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Paris	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Port of Spain	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Porto	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Rangoon	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Rio de Janeiro	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Rome	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Sao Paulo	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Seoul	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Shanghai	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Singapore	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Sofia	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Taipei	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Tbilisi	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Tokyo	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Tripoli	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Ulaanbaatar	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Yokohama	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14

WEATHER

Forecast for Wednesday through Friday, as provided by AccuWeather.



Legend: sunny, partly cloudy, cloudy, showers, thunderstorms, rain, snow, sleet, fog, ice, wind, waves, high, low, tide, etc.

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North America

City	High	Low	High	Low
Anchorage	4/11	3/7	4/11	3/7
Atlanta	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Boston	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Chicago	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Dallas	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Denver	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Honolulu	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Los Angeles	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Manila	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Moscow	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
New York	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
San Francisco	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Seattle	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Shanghai	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Singapore	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Tokyo	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Ulaanbaatar	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14
Yokohama	10/17	7/14	10/17	7/14

Asia

	Today		Tomorrow	
	High	Low/W	High	Low
	C/F	C/F	C/F	C/F
Almaty	7/44	-2/22 pc	1/24	-2/22
Bail	33/91	24/75 f	36/91	23/75
Bangkok	34/83	23/73 pc	34/83	23/73
Beijing	11/52	-8/23 f	8/44	-1/21
Bombay	32/83	19/64 s	32/83	19/64
Calcutta	23/82	14/57 s	25/82	13/53
Cheng Mai	32/88	16/81 s	32/88	16/81
Colombo	31/88	23/73 pc	31/88	23/73
Dakar	28/82	21/70 s	27/80	21/70
Hanoi	33/91	21/77 pc	33/91	21/76
Ho Chi Minh	33/91	21/77 pc	33/91	21/76
Hong Kong	24/75	21/70 ph	24/75	20/70

THE AMERICAS

In a Venezuelan Prison, Little Law and No Order

'Every Aspect of the System Is Overloaded And Not Functioning,' Rights Monitor Says

By Diana Jean Schemo
New York Times Service

CIUDAD BOLIVAR, Venezuela — The prison here is called a center for rehabilitation, but perhaps nowhere in Venezuela do the words have less meaning than inside its gate.

Even prison administrators dare not cross the portal to the area inside that inmates have carved into competing fiefdoms. Crumpling themselves into a space built for 400, the 1,200 men and 32 women have blasted holes through walls, taken over a schoolroom and thrown up cardboard shacks. Corridors and yards have names — The Ranch and The Tank — and armed borders.

A new turf may begin at a stairwell or corridor bend with groups of inmates — makeshift guns, knives and sabers flashing from their belts — standing guard. Virtually every inmate is scarred, and many are bandaged.

But there are also surprising visions of grace: healthier inmates nursing those who are sick, one carving figures and jewelry from stone, two groups that have devised ovens to bake cakes.

With crime surging and frustration with crime surging — suspects have been lynched — Venezuela has been sending growing numbers of people to prison. Its 33 prisons, built to house 15,000 inmates, now hold more than 24,000.

"They're the most violent, most dangerous prisons in the world," said Joanne Mariner, a lawyer for Human Rights Watch in New York. "Every aspect of the system is overloaded and not functioning."

Venezuelan prisons mix inmates charged with armed robbery and murder with university graduates who have been convicted of white-collar crimes. Prisoners with 15-year sentences share cells with those awaiting trial.

About three out of four inmates have not been convicted of a crime. Some, like Adan Toledo, 40, a former bank employee charged with fraud, have waited more than a year for trial, unable to scrape together bail. Others, like America Carmen Bustillo, 42, apparently are here for no reason. Ms. Bustillo was accused of selling drugs but said the case against her was dropped. Five months later, she was still waiting for the bureaucratic machinery to release her.

Violence, mostly among inmates, has skyrocketed. Last year, 336 prisoners were killed, up from 287 in 1996. By comparison, of the 1.7 million convicts in U.S. prisons, 67 were killed by other inmates last year.

Two years ago, the government blew up Catia prison in the capital, Caracas, which had been a symbol of the violence and chaos in the criminal-justice system. Optimists saw that as a herald of an era of reform. But there have been few signs of improvement since then, and outrage over mounting crime has thrown prison conditions off the list of voter concerns.

At the prison in Ciudad Bolivar, 595 kilometers (370 miles) southeast of Caracas, the authority of the state ends at the door.

The National Guard, responsible for security outside the prison, searches visitors. Prison authorities, with a handful of guards for the entire prison, restrict themselves to two offices at the entrance. They leave meals in vast tubs at the prison gate.

The other offices house *refugiados*, prisoners without allies inside, who huddle near the administrative offices for safety. They include white-collar suspects like Adan Toledo and a group of convicts sent here from the prison in El Dorado. The newcomers had been involved in a fight that killed 29 men, many with friends in Ciudad Bolivar.

"Practically speaking, they sent us to the guillotine to die," Jorge Luis Rey, 26, said. When the group arrived, one was killed almost immediately.

The consequences of being cut or shot are serious, given the virtual absence of medical care. With antibiotics scarce, wounds fester. Raul Millan, 30,

was shot in his left leg three years ago by an inmate with a homemade gun. With no treatment for the ensuing infection, his leg had to be amputated.

Seizing weapons does little good, Enlace Villamonte, the weekend prison director, said. "Within days the weapons reappear. 'Where they're coming from, I don't know,'" she said. "I won't say my guards are saints, but I don't believe they're bringing in weapons."

Within the fiercely protected borders of their fiefdoms, prisoners seem to strive for normal lives. In the El Rey pavilion, the inmates have opened a bakery, fashioning an oven from an old metal cabinet with a hot plate on the ground. One prisoner gently lifted a towel and untied the cloth scraps that held the door shut. A cake was baking on a metal shelf.

Most women sent here quickly choose partners from among the inmates, but men at Ciudad Bolivar are allowed weekly conjugal visits. Until recently, babies were born and raised at Ciudad Bolivar.

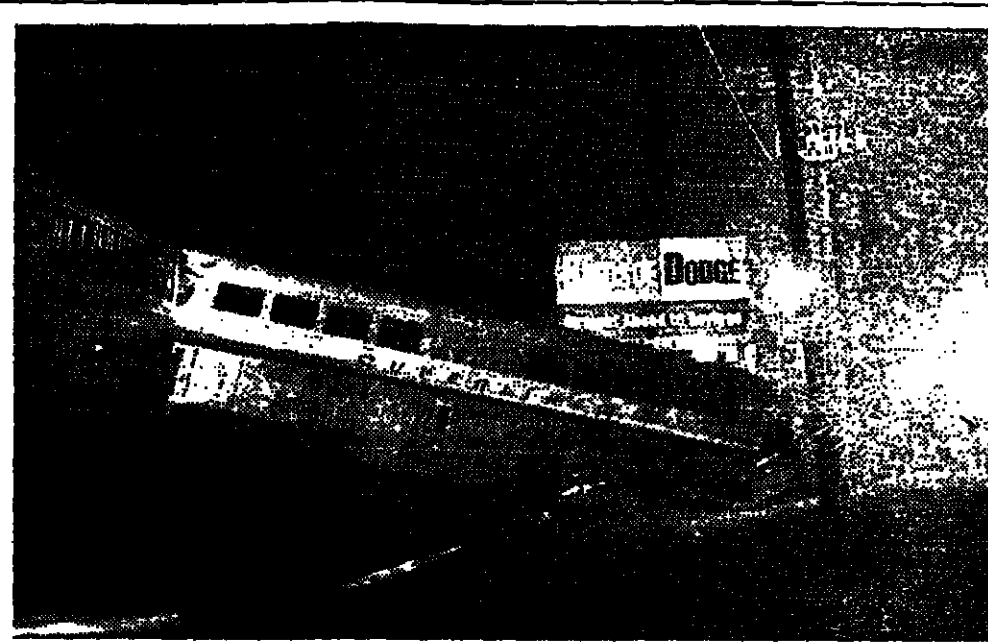
Budget cutbacks have ended rehabilitative programs and inmates have taken over the classroom building, making translucent walls out of bedsheets.

In a neighboring yard, a shantytown made from cinderblocks, wood and more bedsheets has gone up, with electrical wires running in every direction. The roof of one, built by Luis Beltran, a 37-year-old inmate nicknamed The Architect, is a collage of tar paper and cardboard, the holes plugged with an egg carton, a beach thong, a battered thermos laid on its side. Most of the shacks do not have mattresses and all leak in the rain.

But allies are more important than mattresses. Antonio Gomez, 24, said that on entering Ciudad Bolivar prison five years ago for murder he first sought friends, crucial for safety, and then decent living space. Now he lives with two allies in a section that used to be the women's annex, before prisoners ripped out the intervening bars.

Mr. Gomez carries a black stone into pendants, bracelets and watchbands. One pendant shows a woman astride a leopard. Many show Jesus.

"Here, you either find God or you lose all hope," said Sister Socorro Quintana, 53, a Roman Catholic nun from Spain who ministers to inmates here. "And there are many who are completely without hope."



OFF TRACK — An Amtrak train lying near a road in Arlington, Texas after it derailed this weekend, injuring 19. Earlier, the train struck and killed a deaf woman near Dallas.

Texas Woman Has Octuplets

6 Girls and 2 Boys 'Hanging In There,' Doctor Says

By Bill McAllister
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — A Texas woman who had been taking fertility drugs has given birth to eight children in Houston, according to one of her physicians. The children are believed to be the first surviving set of octuplets in the United States.

Nkem Chukwu, who entered the hospital in October, had delivered the first baby naturally 12 days earlier. Sunday morning, doctors delivered the remaining five girls and two boys by cesarean section, the doctor said.

The seven infants, weighing 11 ounces to 1 pound, 11 ounces (312 grams to 765 grams), were listed in critical condition Monday along with the first child, a girl.

Mrs. Chukwu's first baby was said to weigh 1½ pounds. Until she was delivered on Dec. 8, doctors were uncertain how many other babies she was carrying. A sonogram revealed there were seven.

Dr. Brian Kirshon, one of the three doctors who assisted in Sunday's delivery at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, said he was told that the infants, who were taken to the adjoining Texas Children's Hospital, had an 85 percent chance of survival.

"They're doing as well as could be expected," Dr. Patti Savrick, a pediatrician there, told The Associated Press. "They're hanging in there."

But Dr. Leonard Weisman, the hospital's chief of neonatology service, told Reuters. "Several have shown some improvement and several haven't." Physicians went to extraordinary lengths to delay the births of the seven Chukwu infants after the first child, named Baby A for the moment, was delivered 15 weeks prematurely. Those born Sunday, named B through H, were 13 weeks premature.

The 27-year-old mother, a native of Nigeria, was said to have been ordered to bed and placed on medications to prevent her from going into labor. She was lying "upside down," the doctor said, with her head below her feet to keep from applying pressure on her womb during the last weeks of the pregnancy.

"I think she is remarkable in that she was able to tolerate extreme conditions, to lie upside down in that degree of discomfort and that degree of immobility," Dr. Kirshon said.

The National Center for Health Statistics reports that the incidence of multiple births in the United States, mostly attributable to fertility drugs, has climbed sixfold in the past two and a half decades, troubling physicians and health care professionals. The children face not only higher mortality rates but also are at a greater risk of neurological defects, eye and lung disorders and developmental and behavioral abnormalities.

"I personally don't consider triplets to be a success," David Frankfurter, a fertility doctor at Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island, told The Washington Post earlier this year.

In the United States, Bobbi McCaughey of Carlisle, Iowa, had held the record for the largest number of children who have survived in a single delivery. She delivered septuplets by cesarean Nov. 19, 1997, and all seven survived.

Mrs. McCaughey, who also had taken fertility drugs, and her husband, Kenny, offered congratulations to the Chukwu and their babies. "We wish them the Lord's blessing and a merry Christmas," the couple said through their agent.

POLITICAL NOTES

David Duke to Run for Seat To Be Vacated by Livingston

WASHINGTON — David Duke, the Louisiana politician who has ties to the Ku Klux Klan, has announced plans to run for the seat Representative Bob Livingston will vacate, creating further political problems for the Republican Party in the aftermath of the impeachment vote against President Bill Clinton.

Mr. Duke, a Republican and neo-Nazi sympathizer, declared his plans to run for the seat north of New Orleans almost immediately after Mr. Livingston told House colleagues Saturday that he would resign in six months. During the debate over impeachment, and after disclosing marital infidelities, Mr. Livingston said he would not assume the House speakership this January, as expected.

Mr. Duke has been a major embarrassment to the Republican Party since winning a Louisiana statehouse seat in 1989. In 1990, he was the party's nominee in an unsuccessful bid to defeat then-incumbent Senator J. Bennett Johnston, a Democrat. One year later, Mr. Duke gave up his legislative seat to run against and beat the Republican governor, Buddy Roemer, in the gubernatorial primary. As the Republican nominee, Mr. Duke lost the general election to Edwin Edwards, a Democrat.

These contests forced the national and state Republican parties into a defensive posture. Republican officials repudiated Mr. Duke at every turn, and many Republican leaders openly endorsed Mr. Duke's Democratic opponents. Mr. Duke has scared moderate whites away from the Republican Party in the South, where the party depends on large majorities among white voters to win elections.

The party moved Sunday to disassociate itself from Mr. Duke. The Republican National Committee chairman, Jim Nicholson, declared: "There is no room in the party of Lincoln for a Klansman like David Duke." (WP)

Gore Sets Talks on Government

WASHINGTON — Vice President Al Gore on Monday was to announce an international conference, to be held here next month, that will explore ways governments can streamline and improve their bureaucracies as a way of enhancing their economic competitiveness.

Mr. Gore will preside at the two-day event, called the Global Forum on Reinventing Government, which aides said grew out of the vice president's five-year effort to shake up the Washington bureaucracy and bilateral talks with leaders in a number of nations.

"Inefficient, slow-moving, overly centralized government can be one of the drags on the progress of the private sector, especially in the high-speed, high-tech economy of the 21st century," Mr. Gore said.

"To promote prosperity in the new economy," he added, "nations will have to reinvent their economic and regulatory institutions to respond to citizens and markets in a more flexible and efficient manner." (WP)

Quote/Unquote

Mark Isakowitz, a Republican lobbyist, on the difficulties Republicans will have with the Democratic minority in the House after impeaching President Bill Clinton: "I think at some point the Republicans will try to shrug this off and keep on moving, especially on Social Security and taxes. But when they reach their hand out, I don't know if anyone will want to take it." (WP)

Airlines Within a Whisper Of Quieter-Skies Target

Last 'Noisy' Plane Must Be Grounded by 2000

By Matthew L. Wald
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Airplane noise has gotten a lot softer, according to the Federal Aviation Administration, and a 10-year program with that in mind is approaching a penultimate finale.

But some airlines will face a last-minute rush to fix or retire old planes next year.

Under a law passed by Congress in 1990, airlines have had to reduce steadily the number of the noisiest planes they fly, called Stage 2 planes. Generally, by 1999, those planes must make up less than one-quarter of airline fleets, and by 2000 they must be eliminated. The first 25 percent cut was in 1994, and the next in 1996.

"The noise in and around all these airports we live near is going to change a lot in the next 12½ months," said James Erickson, director of the aviation agency's office of environment and energy. While steps so far have helped, he said, "phasing out that last noisy airplane makes a tremendous difference."

The replacement Stage 3 planes are

much quieter, Mr. Erickson said that a Stage 2 McDonnell Douglas DC-10, for example, made as much noise as nine new Boeing 777s.

The rules cover all planes over 75,000 pounds (34 metric tons), including small commuter planes but not some corporate jets. The rules affect about 7,500 planes registered in the United States.

Airlines are selling the old planes overseas, retiring them or installing "hush kits." American Airlines plans to make its 777s comply with a system that limits engine thrust and flap settings.

Engineers lower noise by reducing the maximum speed at which the engines move air. To get more thrust, newer engines move more air than old ones.

Some airlines already have met the requirements for 2000. United Parcel Service, the first to eliminate Stage 2 jets, replaced the engines on its 727s.

The Federal Aviation Administration estimates that in 1975, some 7 million people were exposed to a noise level of 65 decibels from planes, considered undesirable. By 1995, the number was down to 1.7 million, and by 2000, it will be 600,000 people, the agency said.

Away From Politics

• Minneapolis police arrested 36 American Indian and environmental squatters who were protesting a highway rerouting project. The protesters began their occupation of seven condemned homes Aug. 10, saying the new road would cut through a Dakota burial ground still used for occasional ceremonies. Officials said there was no evidence of burial grounds. (AP)

• Scientists have lost radio contact with a spacecraft launched in early 1996 to gather information on a giant asteroid called Eros. But the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Maryland, is optimistic that it can re-establish contact. (AP)

• A seventh-grader suffered permanent eye damage when a friend shined a laser-light pointer into his eye at school. Now the Kansas City middle school is suspending any student who brings one the pointers to class. (AP)

• The Santa Fe sculptor Glenns Goodacre's image of a young Native American mother carrying an infant on her back has emerged as the favorite design for the new \$1 coin, officials in Washington said. The design depicts Sacagawea, the Indian guide who led Meriwether Lewis and William Clark across the Louisiana Purchase lands in 1804. (WP)

How Sweet It Is: Panel Finds Saccharin Is Safe

By Denise Grady
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — A government advisory group has voted to give a clean bill of health to the artificial sweetener saccharin, which, despite its pink-packaged presence on restaurant tables throughout the United States, has been classified since 1981 as a suspected cause of cancer.

The group, the executive committee of the National Toxicology Program, voted 6 to 3 at a meeting last week to recommend that saccharin be removed from the government's list of suspected carcinogens, said a scientist who attended the meeting.

The toxicology program is part of the Department of Health and Human Services, and its role is to coordinate government programs that evaluate the safety of chemicals to which people are exposed, including substances like saccharin that are added to foods.

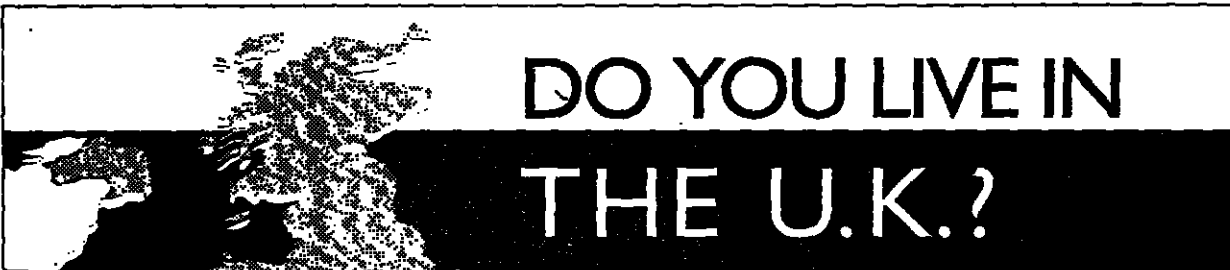
The committee's vote is not the final word on saccharin, but it carries weight with policymakers. The vote will be considered by the toxicology agency director, Dr. Kenneth Olden, who is to

make a recommendation about saccharin in a Report on Carcinogens that will be presented next summer to Donna Shalala, secretary of health and human services, and later to Congress.

The committee action followed votes by three other advisory groups that had been asked to evaluate saccharin studies in people and animals. Two of the other groups, comprising government scientists, had also recommended that saccharin be taken off the official list of suspected carcinogens.

But a panel of nongovernment experts on carcinogens that met in October 1997 voted 4 to 3 to keep saccharin on the list. The toxicology agency's executive committee was asked to take all the earlier results into account when voting.

Saccharin was first singled out as a possible carcinogen in 1977 by a Canadian researcher. The Food and Drug Administration sought to ban it, but consumers, who would have been left without any artificial sweeteners, protested. Cyclamates, another sweetener, had been banned as carcinogenic. Ultimately, Congress refused to ban saccharin, but required warning labels.



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ASIA/PACIFIC

Caste and Campus: Why Indian Colleges Are Flunking Duty

By Barry Bearak
New York Times Service

ALLAHABAD, India — In its celebrated, brainy heyday, Allahabad University was known as the Oxford of India. Among its graduates are three former prime ministers, one former president and the current minister of education — an illustrious alumni roster that now seems ironic for a college majoring in stagnation with a strong minor in chaos.

A campus built for 5,000 students now has 60,000. The academic calendar has lost its logic, with so many postponed sessions that years can go by without required courses being offered. The law school is currently selecting its first new class since 1994.

Buildings are decrepit. The library not only lacks up-to-date journals, but there is also no librarian. Laboratories are of little aid to science. "I did an experiment with hydrochloric acid, and when it didn't work, my teacher told me that's because the chemicals are watered down to make them last longer," said a chemistry student, Manish Kumar Verma.

Allahabad's decline, while an extreme case, is sadly symptomatic of an Indian university system overstaffed with students and undernourished with resources. Higher education was once the pride of a new nation that declared learning to be its route to greatness. But while the words were inspiring, they have gone unfortified by willpower and money.

In the past, the university system's problems were usually relegated to the dry reports of obscure committees, but now one horrific incident has drawn India's attention. Last month, a young man at Rajasthan University fatally immolated himself during a student protest. He was overwrought because the results of crucial exams were three months late, creating a state of limbo that kept students from continuing in school or applying for jobs.

Long delays in grading such exams have become commonplace, and they

have much to do with the long delays in paying the people who do the grading. "Where there are areas of crisis, the crisis is usually in the finances," said Arunima Desai, chairman of the University Grants Commission, which disburses federal funds for higher education.

India has about 10,000 universities and colleges — virtually all public — double the number of 20 years ago. Some remain first-rate, but a large portion of the rest — especially in the poorest of the nation's 27 states — are the overwhelmed creations of haphazard growth.

"State colleges are often built by local bigwigs who use them as a source of political patronage," said Kuldeep Mathur, the former director of the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration. "The buildings are built and staff are hired, but there is no thought as to how the infrastructure will be kept up and the salaries paid."

India has nearly a billion people — largely impoverished masses who increasingly view a college diploma as the admission ticket to the middle class. While only 3 percent of Indians ages 17 to 23 attend college, that still amounts to 7 million students. High school graduates have little to hold them back. Entrance requirements are not rigorous.

V. R. Mehta, vice chancellor of Delhi University, said, "With colleges open to anyone who wants to attend, merit becomes the casualty. Universities have become picnic places with students whiling away their time."

Despite government subsidies for tuition — and habitual promises to spend more — India allocates only 3.7 percent of its gross domestic product on education. That exceeds most other nations in South Asia, but lags far behind much of the developing world, a fact many scholars attribute to the anti-egalitarian impulses of a caste-based society.

Certainly, caste is mentioned often



Students at Allahabad University gathering for a student election. Allahabad was once known as the Oxford of India, but has since been beset with problems.

enough among senior members of the Allahabad faculty as they bemoan the decay of their beloved citadel, although theirs is a different perspective. India's version of affirmative action reserves about 50 percent of admissions for traditionally disadvantaged castes. Most of these students come from small villages with poor schools. Their fluency is in Hindi, though the texts they are required to read are in English.

With such students present in great numbers, the bottom brings the top down, many professors contend.

Professor S. P. Singh, dean of the commerce faculty, said, "A university should exist for the pursuit of academic excellence, but this is now an idea that plays second fiddle to casteism. Merit should rule the roost, not what caste you are born into."

Allahabad is in Uttar Pradesh, a state

where lower caste politicians have come to wield great power. They are often blamed for the university's unchecked growth.

S. C. Bhattacharya, a recently retired professor of ancient history, said, "Despite my faith in democracy, I have to ask: By giving poor students a bad education, do you improve their lot or merely make contagions their disadvantage?"

Clearly, an education is something hard to come by at Allahabad. Students very often skip class, which gives them something in common with their instructors. Ignobly, some professors then charge fees to "coach" their students privately, explaining what their lectures would have said had they actually come to campus to deliver them.

But is the blame for this chaos to be placed on the multitude of unprepared students — or on the lagging priority placed on education?

Miss Desai, of the grants commission, says all the complaining about merit is a luxury for the elite. "In a country like this, how can you make an issue out of merit?" she said. "When you say quality is going down, well, yes it is, but that is because we are massifying education. In a country where the great majority of students are first-generation learners, they need to be nurtured. And nurturing will cost money."

DISSIDENT: 2 Sentenced for Trying to Form Opposition Party

Continued from Page 1

against Mr. Wang in the eastern city of Hangzhou — marked the climax of the most widespread crackdown on dissent in China since 1996.

They came at a time when many people in China are enjoying the freedom to choose jobs, places to live and to travel. However, they were seen in Beijing as perhaps the first serious chill in an increasingly nasty political climate that could last as long as a year.

"This verdict will definitely have the desired effect," said Peng Ming, a former factory manager who earlier this year organized a series of discussion sessions focusing on topics such as democracy, freedom and human rights. Mr. Peng was evicted from his building by his landlord last week and said he would wait several months before resuming his discussion sessions.

"People are scared," he said. Next year, China will commemorate three important anniversaries — the 10th anniversary of the crackdown around Tiananmen Square, the 50th anniversary of Communist China's founding and the 80th anniversary of the May 4th Movement, which established the tradition of Chinese student activism. Chinese set

great stock in anniversary celebrations and the Communist Party is known to be afraid that activists will use the anniversaries as an excuse to start protests.

In addition, China's former Communist Party leader, Zhao Ziyang, who was ousted from his post after the Tiananmen Square movement for expressing sympathy with the students, is 80 years old and known to be in relatively frail health. His passing could also prompt protests — just as the death of China's former Communist Party secretary, Hu Yaobang, in April 1989 triggered student protests that led to the Tiananmen Square crackdown.

"Things will get very difficult," said Ren Wandong, another leading dissident who was not jailed but predicted the stiff sentences. "Our activities, I think, will have to wait until the end of next June, at the earliest."

A former sailor in China's navy, Mr. Xu is a 55-year-old veteran of the Democracy Wall protests of 1978. Mr. Qin, 45, is the founder of China's first domestic newsletter on human rights. Mr. Wang, 32, is a former student leader of the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989.

During his three-hour trial, Mr. Xu declined to answer questions from the

prosecutor or judge. When he rose to speak in his defense at the end of the trial he was shouted down by the judge, his wife said. The judge took less than 20 minutes to sentence him to jail. "It was a sham," said Mrs. He, his wife.

Mr. Wang and Mr. Qin were tried Thursday — in Hangzhou and Wuhan, respectively. Unlike Mr. Xu, they had no legal representation because Chinese security personnel had threatened their lawyers with jail — a violation of Chinese law.

Starting in June, the three activists teamed up with dozens of others to push the idea of founding an opposition party — the China Democracy Party. Activists attempted to register the party in 14 provinces and cities — a strong signal of the support in China for the idea of an opposition group.

Mr. Wang was the first to attempt to register the party, doing so in Hangzhou on the day that President Bill Clinton arrived in China in June for a summit meeting with Mr. Jiang. Mr. Wang had spent two and a half years in jail for his part as a student leader around Tiananmen Square but since his release in the early 1990s he has "dreamed about bringing change to China," said his wife, Mrs. Hu.

Cambodians Flee Waste Shipment

Sihanoukville, Cambodia — Hundreds of Cambodians fled this seaport town Monday, fearing exposure to toxic waste and violent protests against those responsible for allowing it into the country.

Buses, taxis and the morning train leaving Sihanoukville for Phnom Penh, 185 kilometers (115 miles) to the north, were packed. Police said at least four people were killed and 13 injured in accidents on the bumpy, narrow road north.

Among those fleeing Sihanoukville were customs officials, whom protesters blamed for letting the waste in.

The Taiwanese company that sent the waste has said it obtained permits from Taiwanese and Cambodian authorities. It has denied the material is toxic but admitted it contains traces of mercury, which can be poisonous. (AP)

Nepalese Leader Shuffling Partners

KATMANDU, Nepal — Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala on Monday handed his resignation to the king, the royal palace announced.

The resignation by the prime minister is a technical requirement that will allow Mr. Koirala's Nepali Congress and its new partner, the United Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Nepal, to form a new coalition government.

Mr. Koirala will continue as prime minister. King Birendra has set a Wednesday deadline for other parties to come forward to stake their claim for a government. Nepal, an absolute monarchy until a pro-democracy movement forced constitutional reforms in 1990, has had five prime ministers in the past four years. (AP)

For the Record

A South Korean warship fired several warning shots Monday near a Japanese boat that was fishing for tuna in international waters between the two countries, the Japanese Coast Guard said in Tokyo. The incident occurred near the site where South Korean Navy ships sank a North Korean speedboat on Friday. (AP)

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Thousands of human beings... They would be together with their loved ones, with their wives and husbands, with their brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers...

They are no longer with us, because terrorism took so many lives in our country... Throughout fourteen long years...

They were all our children, our brothers and sisters, our wives and husbands, mothers and fathers... Thousands of them...

We have experienced wave after wave of pitiless terror...

Terrorists have raided our homes in the dark of the night...

They have set fire to our schools...

We lived through all this... Throughout fourteen long years...

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EUROPE

Primakov Seeks 'Strategic Triangle'

Russia-China-India Link Would Boost Regional Security, He Says

NEW DELHI — Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov of Russia said Monday that he favored a "strategic triangle" involving China, Russia and India to ensure regional stability.

Mr. Primakov spoke at the start of an official two-day visit that saw Russia and India sign an accord extending bilateral military cooperation to 2010.

"A lot depends on the region on the policies of China, Russia and India," Mr. Primakov said. "If we succeed in establishing a strategic triangle, it will be very good."

The visit — the first by a Russian leader to India since New Delhi's nuclear tests in May — was overshadowed by the bombing of Iraq by the United States and Britain last week.

Mr. Primakov was asked how Russia would react to new air strikes. "We will never change our position," he said. "We are very negative about the use of force bypassing the Security Council."

While stressing that he had made no formal proposal, he said that a Russia-India-China partnership would provide "greater stability, not just in the region but in the entire world."

Russia has signed a "strategic partnership" with China, while it has strong traditional ties with India founded on decades of military cooperation.

Last week, Russia, India and China strongly criticized the bombing of Iraq, reviving some Cold War rhetoric. India said it favored diplomacy over the use of force to resolve the dispute over weapons inspection in Iraq.

All three nations have reasons to believe they need to influence the region and check U.S. power, analysts said. Their concerns include access to rich oil reserves in Central Asia, peace in the Middle East and the rise of the radical Taliban movement in Afghanistan.

But for all the convergence of interests, analysts said, the Asian triangle has been a difficult dream. A key factor

for India is its 50-year history of tension with Pakistan. New Delhi is unhappy with U.S. arms aid to Islamabad, but it has also been angered by Chinese nuclear technology sales to the Pakistanis.

The air strikes on Iraq were a blow for Russia, which wields veto power as a member of the UN Security Council.

After talks with Mr. Primakov on Monday evening, the Indian prime minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, declined to comment directly on the concept of a three-way partnership, saying only that India's ties with Russia were "time-tested," and that New Delhi was "trying to improve relations" with China.

A Call to Ex-Soviet Armies

The Russian defense minister, Marshal Igor Sergeev, called Monday for the armed forces of former Soviet states to cooperate more closely, saying that the United States, with the bombing of Iraq, had become "unpredictable," Reuters reported from Moscow.



Prime Ministers Yevgeni Primakov of Russia, left, and Atal Behari Vajpayee of India greeting officials Monday before talks in New Delhi.

"At this moment, when the United States and their allies are unpredictable, it's essential we reach a common understanding of the military-political problems arising and work out common

views on prospects for developing military cooperation," he said at a Moscow meeting of defense ministers from the Commonwealth of Independent States. (Reuters, AFP)

10 Years After, Remembrance At Lockerbie

LOCKERBIE, Scotland — Relatives and friends of passengers on Pan Am Flight 103 gathered here Monday, 10 years after the airliner was blown out of the skies by a bomb and crashed onto this small Scottish town.

Fifty foreign visitors joined local people in a wreath-laying and church service for the 270 people who lost their lives in one of the world's worst air disasters. Similar services were being held in London and the United States.

"My family's expanded at the expense of the death of my brother," said Bert Ammerman, an American who lost his brother, Tom. "These people, the people of Pan Am 103, have become my family. On the 10th anniversary this is where I wanted to be. It brings back the devastation, horror and destruction, but something positive has also come out of it."

Prince Philip, husband of Queen Elizabeth, laid a wreath at the Garden of Remembrance in Drysdale Cemetery, just outside Lockerbie, where a simple, polished stone memorial catalogues the dead. Before Prince Philip's symbolic gesture to honor the 270 dead on a bitterly cold, rainy day, Lockerbie's Ro-



A couple paying their respects at the memorial stone listing the Lockerbie dead in the Garden of Remembrance.

man Catholic parish priest at the time of the crash spoke to about 200 victims' relatives and townspeople about the "ficking bomb" of justice.

"Ten years ago, for you and for us, a bomb was ticking," the Reverend Pat Keegans told the crowd. "Be assured of this — there is another bomb ticking — the irresistible bomb of justice and truth."

"Be certain that our wreath-laying today is not a symbolic gesture. It is a declaration that we will not rest until we have justice and truth, until all who are responsible for your deaths are held

accountable." Two Libyan suspects have been indicted in connection with the bombing, but have not yet been turned over for trial.

A low-key memorial service was planned Monday at Lockerbie's Drysdale Church beginning at 1903 GMT, the moment when the plane hit the ground. Events were also planned at Westminster Abbey in London, Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia and Syracuse University in New York state, which lost 35 college students in the crash.

Lockerbie lost 11 of its own people, along with the 259 passengers and crew

aboard Flight 103, which had just reached its cruising altitude on Dec. 21, 1988, 42 minutes after taking off from London's Heathrow Airport for New York.

Last week, Libya's Parliament gave its conditional approval for a trial in the Netherlands by a Scottish court of two Libyan suspects, but after four nights of bomb attacks on Iraq by U.S. and British forces fresh doubt has been thrown on the negotiations. A Tripoli-based diplomat said that the Iraq crisis may prompt Libya to delay its decision on a trial. (Reuters, AP)

Berlin Protects Jewish Sites

BERLIN — The authorities in Berlin ordered tighter security at the city's Jewish sites Monday after a bomb blast destroyed the grave of a former German Jewish leader.

City officials said there were no immediate suspects in the Saturday night attack, which blew up the marble memorial slab on Heinz Galinski's grave in a Jewish cemetery in western Berlin.

Berlin's interior minister, Eckart Wenterbach, said the home-made bomb was packed into the steel cap of a gas canister for maximum explosive impact.

Mr. Galinski headed Germany's Central Council of Jews from 1988 until his death in 1992. He had headed Berlin's Jewish community since 1949.

Ignatz Bubis, who succeeded Mr. Galinski as head of the council, visited the gravesite Monday and blamed the attack on rightist extremists. Federal agents were helping investigate the bombing as a potential political crime.

An attack on Mr. Galinski's grave three months ago caused minor damage. Police patrols at the cemetery in Charlottenburg district and other Jewish sites in Berlin were being stepped up, said a police spokesman, Martin Strunden.

Many Germans reacted with horror to the attack. Volker Beck, a lawmaker for the Greens party, said it showed that anti-Semitism still festered in the country.

BRIEFLY

Havel Feeling Fit, But Czechs Worry

PRAGUE — President Vaclav Havel said Monday that he had recovered from the respiratory infection, while a survey showed many Czechs think he should consider quitting.

"I think the viral infection I had in recent days is leaving, getting away from me," Mr. Havel, 62, said at a news conference in his first appearance since the illness forced him to cancel a meeting with visiting Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar on Dec. 14.

A poll released Monday showed that concerns over his health led 55 percent of Czechs to say he should consider resigning. (Reuters)

Serbian Policeman Is Killed in Kosovo

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia — A Serbian policeman was reported killed and a woman wounded Monday in a northern Kosovo town.

The Serbian-run Media Center reported that 52-year-old Milica Jovic was shot by unidentified assailants using automatic weapons in Podujevo early Monday. He died en route to the hospital. A woman who was accompanying Mr. Jovic was wounded in the leg, the center said.

Podujevo is an overwhelmingly ethnic Albanian town 40 kilometers (25 miles) north of Pristina, close to central Serbia. Tensions there have grown in past weeks.

The Kosovo Information Center, close to the ethnic Albanian leadership, said the town was blocked as Serbian police brought in reinforcements. Sporadic shooting could be heard from an area northeast of the town, it said. (Reuters)

EU Agrees to Cut Vehicle Pollution

BRUSSELS — European Union environment ministers agreed on Monday to halve pollution from diesel- and gas-powered buses and trucks by 2005.

The law, which needs the approval of the European Parliament before it can take effect, sets increasingly strict restrictions on emissions of carbon monoxide and other gases. (Reuters)

INTERNATIONAL

Ugandans in Congo: More Than Aid?

By Ian Fisher
New York Times Service

KISANGANI, Democratic Republic of the Congo — There is a certain touchiness among Ugandan soldiers posted here about what they are doing in the middle of someone else's rebellion.

"We are just with our friends — no problems," one soldier at the airport said.

"People should not tell you lies that Uganda is fighting the war," said Balum, 25, a second lieutenant who uses only one name, as he sped away down a jungle road in a pickup truck. "We are just peacekeepers."

But four months into the war in Congo, formerly Zaire — which has drawn soldiers from at least seven nations and has defied solution at every round of peace talks — things do not seem quite that tidy.

While Ugandan officials say they are not engaged in fighting, the nation's huge military presence here, the center of its operations in Congo, has become routine, with near-daily flights carrying men, food and matériel.

Uganda says that its only real interest is the security of its border from attack by rebel militias based in Congo.

Yet rumors abound here of deals in gold, and dealers in diamonds talk about a mysterious Belgian who they believe is buying lots of them on Ugandan's behalf.

"What are they doing 1,000 kilometers (625 miles) from the border if this is a question of security?" a priest here asked of both Uganda and Rwanda, the two nations that are supporting the

rebellion. "This is not a problem of security. This is another problem."

The priest's words were echoed last week with a skepticism that Uganda's president, Yoweri Museveni — an ally of many Western nations, especially the United States — is unused to hearing from foreign friends. At a meeting in Uganda of rich nations that give money to poor ones, the European Union issued a statement recognizing Uganda's "legitimate security concerns" in Congo.

"At the same time," the statement said, "it is doubtful that the current level of military presence and activity up to 700 kilometers away from the Ugandan border serve that purpose."

What, exactly, Uganda is doing in Congo seems to be a bit of a mystery even to Uganda itself, if one takes the nation's leaders at their word. But the general contours are clear: Since August, Uganda has lodged its presence deep in its neighbor's territory, alongside a group of rebels and Rwandan soldiers seeking to overthrow the Congolese president, Laurent Kabila.

Only last year, Uganda and Rwanda helped Mr. Kabila to take power in a similar war. No one wept then for Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, for 32 years the dictator of what was then Zaire.

This time, though, there is no pretense that Uganda and Rwanda are not key players — to the point that at least four other African nations have intervened against them. All four accuse Uganda and Rwanda of invading another sovereign nation.

As diplomats around the world worry that a full-scale regional war is boiling over in Africa, Uganda protests that this

is a war it did not want but has been unable to avoid.

"We are not there voluntarily," said Amama Mubazi, the Ugandan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in charge of regional cooperation. "We are forced by circumstances to be there."

He said that relations between Uganda and Congo had been souring because Mr. Kabila did not control rebels who initiate attacks into Uganda from the other side of the Congo border.

Since last spring, 1,500 Ugandan troops have been stationed inside Congo, flushing out these fighters with the help of Congolese soldiers.

In August, Mr. Mubazi said, those same Congolese soldiers started the rebellion against Mr. Kabila.

"When they mutinied, what could we do?" Mr. Mubazi asked. "Either we had to continue with them or maybe fight them."

Critics of General Museveni, and many admirers, say this is not the whole story. But many outside officials and experts say Rwanda was the prime mover behind the rebellion because of its own deeper border worries, in which the forces that carried out the 1994 mass killings there have been launching their own attacks from Congo into Rwanda.

Uganda, under this theory, went along with the rebellion because it thought Mr. Kabila would fall easily.

He did not, largely because Zimbabwe, Angola, Namibia and Chad rushed to his defense.

Two questions muddy Uganda's protests that its involvement in Congo is limited and reluctant. The first is the extent to which its well-trained and disciplined army is actually fighting the war. The second is how much Uganda's commercial interests, which have grown since Mr. Kabila came to power, play a role.

Neither question can be answered with certainty. On the issue of fighting, outside experts are divided as to whether Ugandans are the main force pushing in the northwest along the Congo River toward the capital, Kinshasa, or whether their role is merely advisory.

There have been no reports of Ugandan soldiers dying in Congo. But there are thousands of Ugandan soldiers in Congo, perhaps 6,000 or more, and there is much speculation that Uganda helped create a second rebel force northwest of here led by Jean-Pierre Bemba, the son of one of Congo's richest men. Uganda says its troops operate only in the same areas as Mr. Bemba, but they do not seem to have made any efforts to stop him.

The question of commercial interests is complicated because of Congo's great wealth in natural resources and the assumption that every outside force is fighting for some piece.

Nigeria Doubles Price for Fuel

LAGOS — Fuel prices more than doubled on Monday in Nigeria, Africa's biggest oil-producing nation, after years of being fixed by the government.

Increases in official prices have in the past triggered riots in the West African country of more than 108 million people, but businesses and international lenders had long called for the abolition of fuel subsidies.

There was no public announcement of a rise in the price, but filling stations sold gasoline for 25 naira (29 cents) a liter instead of the 11 naira pump price.

"We can sell for whatever price we like," a spokesman for Mobil Corp.'s Nigerian oil marketing company said. "The government has given us a free hand."

The government said last week it would no longer fix fuel prices, but he gave no indication when the change would take effect.

The deregulation of the oil market is one of the clearest signals that the mil-

itary ruler, General Abdulsalam Abubakar, is as committed to liberal economic reforms as to a widely accepted democracy plan under which he intends to step down in May.

Fuel shortages have been worse than ever this year and are seen by many Nigerians as the most obvious symptom of military misrule in the oil-rich nation.

The failure of four state-run refineries has forced the government to import gasoline, which it can ill afford given the slump in world oil prices. Imports have still failed to meet demand.

Clashes Over Oil Rights

At least 20 people have died in a renewed clash over oil rights in southwest Nigeria, Agence France-Presse reported Monday from Lagos, quoting Nigerian press reports.

Fresh hostilities broke out during the weekend in Aiyetoro, some 180 kilometers (110 miles) from Lagos when 10 boats belonging to ethnic Ijaws were sunk by their rival neighbors, the Itajes.

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THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

INTERNATIONAL

White House Tests Waters for Deal and Floats a Compassionate Clinton

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WASHINGTON — White House officials said Monday that they were "very encouraged" by some of their first soundings on finding a bipartisan solution to the impeachment crisis, but they were warned by senators from both parties to steer clear of parliamentary maneuvering that would drag out the process and further alienate the American public.

As his lieutenants prepared for the next stage of the battle — this time against a conviction by the Senate on articles of impeachment for perjury and obstruction of justice — President Bill Clinton on Monday adopted a compassionate and remorseful stance. He is devoting this holiday week to volunteering at a Washington soup kitchen, reading to children and remembering victims of Pan Am Flight 103.

Ladling sauce over a pan of lasagna at Central Kitchen, Mr. Clinton had only kind words for members of Congress. "I hope they have a merry Christmas," he said. "I hope everyone in the country will take some time to think about other people and do something in the spirit of the season, something like this."

But some aides were in attack mode, reflecting the aggressive policy devised after the impeachment Saturday.

"I think that the president believes that what went on in the House brought no credit to the House," said the White House press secretary, Joe Lockhart, who called the impeachment vote "illegitimate and unfair."

"Now that this has moved to the Senate, there is a hope that this will be dealt with in a serious, constitutional and fair way," Mr. Lockhart said.

Vice President Al Gore, who would become president if Mr. Clinton were removed from office, also called on the Senate to "forge a fair, bipartisan compromise to end this matter promptly."

Ann Lewis, White House communications director, said that President Clinton had been in touch with a number of senators but that active lobbying would not be appropriate.

"We are very encouraged by some of the initial comments that have been made by senators as they, too, say, 'We think we can find a bipartisan solution,'" she said in a broadcast on CBS.

"That's what the country deserves." The Washington Post reported Monday that the White House was weighing a legal assault on the legitimacy of President Clinton's impeachment by a lame-duck Congress, arguing that the new House of Representatives that convenes in January must revisit the matter and approve new articles before a trial.

The White House chief of staff, John Podesta, said that its legal team would consider whether to challenge the constitutionality of a situation in which the charges were brought in the outgoing 105th Congress but the president tried in the 106th, which convenes Jan. 6.

"Some of the constitutional experts who have reviewed that matter believe that it is not consistent with the constitution to have done this in a lame-duck Congress, especially in the partisan way that they did that," Mr. Podesta said on CNN. "So I think we'll have to take a look at that."

But one Senate Democrat warned against such a challenge. "I think anything that is seen as parliamentary maneuvering to get out of this is not going to be accepted by the American public," Senator John Breaux of Louisiana said Monday in an interview with CNN.

"It's going to have to be out front. It is going to have to be fair," he said. "I think if we try and solve this on parliamentary maneuvering, it is going to be a serious mistake."

Senator Orrin Hatch, the Republican chairman of the Judiciary Committee, on Sunday warned the White House against launching a long legal procedure to try to get Mr. Clinton out of his trouble, saying

that would be "very unwise" and backfire. Mr. Lockhart indicated Monday that the White House would not try to drag out the process, saying, "I don't see any advantage, nor does anyone that works here see any advantage, in not finding some way to quickly dispatch this."

White House officials, while preparing a more aggressive defense of Mr. Clinton on the facts of the case than they mounted during the House impeachment proceedings, still held out hope of averting a trial even as they tried to persuade George Mitchell, the Maine Democrat and former Senate majority leader, to head the defense effort in the Senate.

Senator Mitch McConnell, Republican of Kentucky, noted Monday that the Senate could dismiss the case at any time with a simple majority vote of 51 senators. He said he favored a trial, a concept that is also supposed to be favored by the senior Democrat in the chamber, Robert Byrd of West Virginia.

Conciliator for a House Divided

Probable Speaker, Hastert of Illinois, Could Help Heal Partisan Rift

By Eric Schmitt

New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Representative Dennis Hastert, Republican of Illinois, has gone suddenly from being an anonymous middle-level legislator to the presumptive speaker of the House, less because of who he is than because of who he is not.

Mr. Hastert, a six-term conservative who is the No. 2 vote counter in the House Republican hierarchy, is not a pyrotechnical firebrand like Newt Gingrich or a driven conservative like Representative Tom DeLay, Republican of Texas, the majority whip.

He has a reputation among Republican colleagues as a conciliator, someone who can reach out to Democrats.

But to heal the wounds in Congress, he will have to persuade moderates in his own party and Democrats that he is not simply an agent of Mr. DeLay. For it is Mr. DeLay, the Republicans' chief vote counter, who has been seen in the House as the architect of President Bill Clinton's impeachment. And it is Mr. DeLay, more than anyone else, who is pushing Mr. Hastert's name forward as speaker.

As chief deputy majority whip, Mr. Hastert is responsible for taking the temperature of lawmakers on key votes and for dealing with legislative favors. He is viewed as a low-key insider, a lumbering former high-school wrestling coach who brokers compromises and smooths out differences without threats or rancor, and always away from the spotlight.

To House Republicans, reeling from the resignation of both a speaker and a speaker-in-to-be in the span of two months, Mr. Hastert is a consensus candidate who can bridge the feuding conservative and moderate wings of the party.

"Who in the House is in the best position to heal the partisan rift?" said Representative Gerald Weller, Republican of Illinois. "It's Coach Hastert."

But the challenge of being speaker, a position just behind the vice president in order of succession to the presidency, will be difficult enough following a bitter, partisan divide that roiled the House for months over impeachment.

It will be even more difficult in the 106th Congress, with Republicans holding a tiny majority and Democrats in no mood to accommodate. And it could be harder still for Mr. Hastert, who is untested in the national political battles that have incinerated his two predecessors, and who is already being painted by some Democrats as only a puppet to Mr. DeLay.

"I don't envy anyone chosen to be speaker right now," said Representative Tom Barrett, Democrat of Wisconsin, who has worked closely with Mr. Hastert on issues from drug policy to national defense. "With the slim majority and the atmosphere Republicans have created with Democrats, it'd be a Herculean task for anyone."

House Republicans do not vote until Jan. 5 to pick a successor to Speaker-elect Bob Livingston, Republican of Louisiana, who on Thursday acknowl-

edged a series of extramarital affairs and on Saturday abruptly withdrew his bid for the speaker's post and said he would leave Congress in six months. The full House will vote Jan. 6.

But Mr. Hastert was already trying out his new title for size Sunday in his Capitol office, declining interviews but calling to thank many of the 135 Republicans who have committed their support. He needs 112 votes to win.

As the phone calls flooded in, Mr. Hastert was also mapping out the outlines of an agenda. "Between the congratulations and the thank yous, he's talking and listening to a lot of members right now," said Pete Jeffries, Mr. Hastert's spokesman.

Within hours after Mr. Livingston delivered his stunning news, Mr. Hastert used the Republican whip's organization to launch a blitzkrieg campaign that vaulted him from obscurity to lock up the race. The main rival, Representative Christopher Cox, Republican of California, was torpedoed before he knew what hit him.

But the whip's machinery went into gear in support of Mr. Hastert only after Mr. DeLay declined to run for speaker himself.

The two are extremely close, sharing the same offices and the same staffs. Democrats say that if Mr. Hastert is to have any chance of rising above the partisan cauldron embroiling official Washington, he will have to stand up to Mr. DeLay and to the party's powerful right.

"He has the potential to reach out to



Representative Dennis Hastert, left, who is expected to be the next House speaker, talking with Representative John Boehner, a fellow Republican.

Democrats, if the right wing in his own party will allow it," said Representative Henry Waxman, Democrat of California, who has worked closely with Mr. Hastert on two committees.

But other Democrats who say they like Mr. Hastert personally warn that party ideology trumps individual personalities in today's poisonous political wars.

On Sunday, Mr. Hastert's aides started carefully to distance their boss from Mr. DeLay and his hardball politics.

Unlike Mr. DeLay, Mr. Hastert has achieved the rare prize of climbing to the top of the leadership ladder while mak-

ing few if any enemies. Part of this may be because of his relative anonymity. Even among many Washington political sophisticates, the appointment of Mr. Hastert drew blank stares.

But for House Republicans eager to fill the breach left by Mr. Livingston before fleeing the scandal-pocked Capitol for the holidays, Mr. Hastert is a well-known, comfortable face: in the House leadership races last month, a campaign to draft Mr. Hastert to challenge Representative Dick Armey, Republican of Texas, the majority leader, fell short. But the seeds were sown.

3 Balloonists Face 'Emergency' as They Approach China

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BEIJING — The British entrepreneur Richard Branson said Monday that his hot-air balloon adventure was facing an emergency after being refused permission to fly over China on the only viable route open to him.

Mr. Branson and his teammates, Steve Fossett of the United States and Per Lindstrand of Sweden, were heading toward China in their round-the-world record attempt, but it was not clear whether they would be forced to land.

"We are effectively in an emergency situation," Mr. Branson said, speaking via satellite. "But we are friends with the Chinese people and this is a sporting event, an adventure. We have no choice but to go over China, and we would be enormously grateful if they let us in."

With the ICO Global Challenge traveling at a steady 80 kilometers (50 miles) an hour, the British government and former Prime Minister Edward Heath were seeking to persuade Chinese authorities to grant permission to cross Chinese territory farther north than planned. ICO Global is a mobile phone company supporting the trip.

China had permitted a crossing farther south, but the balloon was on a more northerly course after being forced to maneuver around both Iraq and a storm, Mike Kendrick, a project director, said.

Because of the rugged Himalayan terrain, the balloon had no place to land before reaching China, Mr. Kendrick said. The team said the balloon would land if ordered to do so by the Chinese authorities, adding that the most likely landing site would be 6,000 meters (20,000 feet) up on the Tibetan plateau around sun-

rise on Tuesday. This would end the record attempt.

Mr. Fossett said he hoped the team would not have to land in such a remote part of the world because of the logistics involved in getting the team and the balloon out of the country. But he said preparations were under way for a search-and-rescue operation should it be necessary.

A British Embassy official indicated that China had reluctantly accepted that the balloon would cross the border. "The Chinese have said that if the balloon does fly into Chinese airspace it must obey all Chinese instructions they give it," she said, adding that the team had agreed to the demand. It was not clear whether the instructions could include an order to land.

On its present track, the balloon could cross into China from Pakistan on Monday night, but its course is "unpredictable," the official said. (Reuters, AP)

FORECAST: IMF Report Indicates Hangover From Asia Crisis

Continued from Page 1

The Fund also criticized commercial and central banks for being unprepared for the near-failure of Long-Term Capital Management LP, an American hedge fund that borrowed billions of dollars to take positions in world bond markets that went at least temporarily sour over the summer.

"The argument often heard in the aftermath of the Asian crisis is that no one could see through the opaque financial structures of the markets," the IMF report said. "Yet the markets and institutions that experienced the turbulence this summer and fall are the most transparent in the world. It also noted that 'LTCM was known, and even advertised, to have a large appetite for risk.'"

The Fund's forecast for another year of recession in Japan is partly at odds with Tokyo's projection on Sunday that its economy would grow 0.5 percent in the

coming fiscal year. Although some of the discrepancy can be explained by the differing periods — the Japanese fiscal year runs through March, while the IMF forecasts are for the calendar year — the government's estimate "is probably slightly optimistic," according to Allison Montgomery, an analyst at Independent Economic Analysis (Holdings) Ltd.

The IMF report, Ms. Montgomery said, "highlighted the negative impact of a stronger yen."

The rising yen raises the cost of Japanese exports, she said, and although it also reduces import prices for Japanese consumers, that is not helping domestic demand in the economy.

Consumers, Ms. Montgomery added, "are delaying purchases. They think prices are going to be lower in three months, why not just wait?"

The IMF questioned "the adequacy and implementation of recent initiatives to turn the economy around" in Japan.

Without growth in Japan, all of Asia will have trouble overcoming the crisis that erupted last year, the IMF said. Pratap Raju, also with Independent Economic Analysis, said this was one reason that the growth forecast for China had been reduced to 6.6 percent from 7.2 percent. This is in line with the 6.5 percent estimate from I.D.E.A., as his firm is known.

Mr. Raju said that level of growth was probably sufficient to prevent a devaluation of the yuan, the Chinese currency, that would put pressure on all the other currencies of Asian exporters. He noted that much of China's recent expansion has been the result of government spending, rather than private-sector demand either from Chinese consumers or foreign purchasers.

The IMF report said that along with Japan's slow growth, an area of concern for the world economy was risk of protectionist pressures rising. With capital flows to emerging markets now estimated at \$90 billion for 1999, down from a September estimate of \$130 billion, some indebted developing countries could have trouble repaying their loans.

That, the report said, might force them to seek trade improvements by either weakening their domestic economies to curb demand for imports or by depreciating their currencies to bolster exports. Such actions could lead to trade wars.

One region with many indebted countries is Latin America, where the IMF projected that growth would be just 1.5 percent next year, down from 2.5 percent in 1998 and 5.1 percent last year.

Brazil, it said, would see an economic contraction of 1 percent next year after a scant rise of 0.5 percent this year.

The IMF imposed fiscal austerity measures on Brazil in exchange for arranging a \$41.5 billion bailout package that was signed last month. Those measures may cause an even greater economic contraction, Michael Mussa, the IMF research director, told Bloomberg News in Washington. Mr. Mussa said the Fund might reduce its outlook for Brazil in February, when an team from the Fund examines the progress the country has made.



Lucille McLauchlan, convicted of fraud by a Scottish court.

Freed British Nurse Stole From Patient

Reuters

LONDON — One of the British nurses freed in May from a Saudi jail on a murder charge was found guilty Monday of stealing money from an elderly patient while working in London.

Lucille McLauchlan, 33, was convicted of theft and fraud by a Scottish court and will be sentenced in January. She was found guilty of stealing £300 (\$505) from the account of an elderly patient while working at a hospital in London in 1996. She was also found guilty of bank card fraud and of forging employment references.

Miss McLauchlan was convicted by a Saudi court of the 1996 murder of Yvonne Gifford, an Australian nurse, at a hospital in Dhahran. She was sentenced to 500 lashes and eight years' jail, but was pardoned and released in May with her co-defendant British nurse, Deborah Parry.

POLLS: Clinton Gains as Republicans Slip

Continued from Page 1

view of the party is even more negative today than it was after the shutdown of the government in the winter of 1995.

Two out of three Americans now oppose Mr. Clinton's removal from office, as they did in the weeks before the hearings. Nine out of 10 respondents said they had heard nothing during the two days of televised hearings, in which Republicans painstakingly offered their case against Mr. Clinton, that had shifted their view of the case.

The Times/CBS News poll suggests that almost a year after the initial reports of Mr. Clinton's relationship with Monica Lewinsky, the public continues to be almost completely at odds with much of Washington's political establishment over the import and significance of the affair, and attempts by an independent counsel and Republicans in Congress to prove he tried to cover it up.

The telephone poll included 1,215 adults nationwide and had a margin of sampling error of plus or minus three percentage points. All respondents were previously interviewed last week, as a way of measuring changes in public perception by the impeachment hearings.

The poll was completed as the case against Mr. Clinton moved from the House, which voted two impeachment counts against him in a partisan vote Saturday, to the Senate for a trial.

Although the Times/CBS poll suggests something approaching a consensus on how the Clinton case should be resolved, there has been little evidence to date that congressional Republicans were considering polls in de-

ciding how to proceed with this case.

Barely one-third of respondents saw congressional Republicans as being in touch with the views of the nation, while nearly two-thirds said they believed the Republicans were pursuing the case for purely partisan motives: to damage Mr. Clinton and the Democratic Party.

White House officials said their polling has found a similar erosion in the public's view of Republicans. "The leadership in the House has potentially done more long-term damage to the Republican Party than anything Richard Nixon did during Watergate," a senior White House official said.

A CBS News poll on Friday found additional evidence of another kind of deterioration in the public's view of Congress: Only 41 percent of respondents now believe Congress shares the public's moral values, down from 58 percent in September.

This is one of the few areas in which Mr. Clinton fares poorly. The same CBS poll found that nearly two-thirds of Americans did not believe Mr. Clinton shared their moral values. The Times/CBS poll suggests shifts in public perceptions of the case from Saturday to Sunday. For example, 60 percent of respondents on Saturday said impeachment was punishment enough for what Mr. Clinton had done; that changed to 53 percent Sunday.

Over two days, 57 percent of the respondents said they believe that Mr. Clinton has been punished enough. There was also a drop over the two days in the number of Americans who expect the Senate to actually remove Mr. Clinton; down from 35 percent on Saturday to 26 percent on Sunday.

POLITICS: Clinton's Strategy in Senate

Continued from Page 1

views reflect the fundamental partisanship of the House, gone to extreme.

Ross Baker, a professor at Rutgers University, called Saturday's votes "an authentic expression of the polarization of the congressional districts." He added, "Both parties have been driven down to their base, their most passionate, most committed, most zealous voters."

One underlying difference was that Republicans were more upset by the moral and character issues that underlay the accusation of perjury than were Democrats.

And Democrats, who succeeded Republicans as the suspicious, oppressed minority after the 1994 midterm elections, were more upset than were Republicans by the methods of the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr, and the House Judiciary Committee, which accepted his evidence and interpretation unquestioningly.

Those same general inclinations will show in the Senate, though probably not as dramatically. The Senate is indeed more partisan than it used to be. As minority leader in 1993, Bob Dole vowed to block Mr. Clinton from passing almost anything that his party

could filibuster. Senator Tom Daschle of South Dakota, a Democrat who is the minority leader today, has profited from Mr. Dole's example.

And when House Republicans who learned congressional obstructionism at the feet of Newt Gingrich have gotten elected to the Senate, they have changed it a bit.

Still, the Senate seems to change them more. Even Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania, perhaps the most strident representative to come to the Senate in recent years, seems to be mellowing as his Senate tenure grows.

George Washington, who attended the Constitutional Convention, is said to have explained the purpose of the Senate, indirectly elected to six-year terms, to Thomas Jefferson, who did not attend, in this fashion:

Saying the point was to have one more deliberative body than a House elected by the people every two years, Washington said, "We pour legislation into the Senate saucer to cool it."

That difference worked for Andrew Johnson in 1868, when the Senate waded through a long trial and heard evidence and acquitted him after the House, in a fit of partisan passion over Reconstruction, had voted impeachment.

WHAT 90

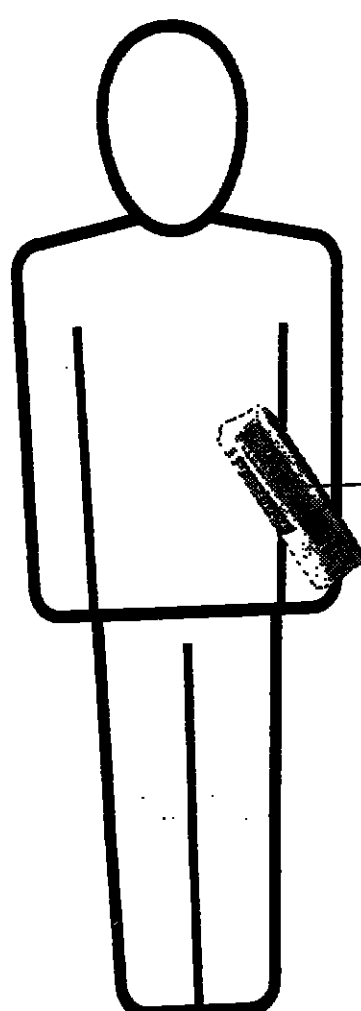
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Average age:
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*Launched in February 1998, the JBRS is an independent survey run jointly by Adams Communications, Tokyo and Research Services Ltd. (RSL), London. It covers a total of 58,213 senior executives within 10,563 Japan's major business organizations.

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OPINION/LETTERS

There's Nothing Conservative About Flaunting the Rules

By Alan Ehrenhalt

WASHINGTON — A pretty good argument can be made that the defining moment of American democracy did not occur in 1776 or 1787, as commonly supposed, but in 1801, on the day John Adams, having been beaten at the polls, quietly packed his things and went home. Only then did Americans know for sure that the system worked as advertised.

The routine transfer of power may not be the most dramatic feature of democracy, but it is the most important. It separates America from the majority of countries in the world, which still have not achieved it. Conceding defeat and going home, or staying in the minority and allowing the winner to govern — those are not just elements of good manners and sportsmanship. They are the core of patriotism.

I have had a hard time escaping those thoughts as I have tried to make sense of the events surrounding President Bill Clinton, Congress and impeachment.

What will people say about all this 20 years from now? Will they quiz each other on the minutiae of the Starr report, as they do on the contents of the Warren report? Will the cigar and the stained dress become icons of American political history?

Or will posterity simply conclude that one of the two political parties, having lost an election, saw an opportunity to nullify it and proved too weak to resist the temptation?

I think history will see the current impeachment affair as the climax of a six-year period marked by a troubling and deepening failure of the Republican Party to play within the established constitutional rules.

It was on election night in 1992 that the Senate minority leader, Bob Dole, hinted at the way his party planned to conduct itself in the months ahead. It would filibuster any significant legislation the new Democratic president proposed, forcing him to obtain 60 votes for Senate passage.

This was a form of scorched-earth partisan warfare unprecedented in modern

political life. Congress is supposed to operate by majority vote. It is true that the filibuster has a long and respectable Senate history and that, over the years, it has been used more by Democrats than by Republicans. But only after 1992 did it become the centerpiece of opposition conduct toward an elected president.

What the Republicans did in the Senate in 1993 amounted to an unreported constitutional usurpation. The panditocracy chose not to notice.

In any case, it worked. Little that the president proposed became law in the two years that he operated with Democratic majorities.

Congressional Republicans were tempted by success into even more dangerous constitutional mischief. In the fall of 1995, emboldened by new majorities in both the House and the Senate, they forced the closure of the federal government. This was not a political showdown. It was an attempted constitutional coup.

The founding fathers provided a mechanism for resolving disputes between Congress and the White House: Congress passes a bill, the president vetoes it, and if sufficient votes do not exist to override the veto, Congress lives with the decision.

For the Republicans to act as they did in 1995 — attempting to make the president sign legislation against his will rather than trying to find the votes to override him — was an act of recklessness so blatant that even an inattentive public understood it. The House speaker, Newt Gingrich, backed down, the government reopened, and Mr. Clinton was re-elected.

But Republicans were already on the road to further adventure. In August 1994, they orchestrated the dismissal of Robert Fiske, the independent counsel investigating the Whitewater land deal, and replaced him with Kenneth Starr.

Republicans selected as independent counsel a lawyer who was already involved in consultations with a plaintiff



By KAL in The Sun (Baltimore), Cal W. Synthesis

suing the president in a civil dispute. No one concerned with ultimate constitutional fairness could possibly have made such a choice. No legislative majority interested in the appearance of justice could ever have approved it.

Now it is four years later. Congress has been consumed by impeachment, and the majority party seems genuinely puzzled by the absence of public support for the process. It should not be. The American people are not suspicious about impeachment because of their love for Bill Clinton. They are suspicious, in large part, because of the track record of those bringing the charges.

It is not that there is no legitimate case to be made against the president. It is that Republicans, over a six-year career of consistent disrespect for constitutional rules, have forfeited any right to be taken seriously in making it.

The unpleasant truth is that congressional Republicans, in the generation before 1994, spent too many years out of power — too many years on the sidelines, uninvolved in managing the governmental process and free to job grenades at the institutions that make it work. Eventually, they became very effective at it; that is one reason they won the election of 1994.

Habits learned over decades do not fade easily. Having been lifted by the American electorate into a position of genuine power, they have continued to behave more like a party of insurgents, probing for cracks in the constitutional structure rather than taking its rules seriously and looking for ways to make them work.

If Republicans in Congress have a common self-image, it is an image of conservatism. No doubt every one of the Republicans in the current House would accept "conservative" as an ideological label. But being a conservative must, in the end, be about more than tax cuts or family values. It must be about taking some responsibility for the fragile procedures and institutions that over 200 years have made an orderly public life possible.

There is nothing conservative about the way Republicans in Congress have conducted themselves, either in the impeachment debate or in most of the important confrontations of the past six years. The American people seem to know that, and show every sign that they are willing to judge accordingly.

Alan Ehrenhalt is executive editor of *Governing* magazine and author of "Lost City." He contributed this comment to *The New York Times*.

Worse Than Adultery: Using It as a Weapon

By Janna Malamud Smith

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts — After the famously adulterous theologian Paul Tillich died, someone said about him, "He wanted to be counted in on every human failing." What I love about the eulogy is that it manages empathy and morality at once. Adultery is a very human desire, as well as an all too human failing.

So now we know that Bob Livingston, the Louisiana Republican who withdrew his bid for the post of speaker of the House, "strayed" in his marriage. Such

will not know right from wrong. I suppose we could try going this route again: teaching values to the young by conducting sexual witch-hunts. But what will they really learn? That adults are nasty and unforgiving. That, as Nathaniel Hawthorne demonstrated, it is often too easy to get people enthused about hurting people who behave differently.

Adultery is a private choice. The important rejection of it comes from love, not intimidation. The reason not to commit it is that it is likely to devastate someone you love if he or she learns about it. And the only way that person will not learn about it is if you tell a lot of lies.

Telling a lot of lies eventually harms your ability to maintain a trusting relationship; secretiveness undermines intimacy. And tending a committed, intimate relationship is a deeply meaningful part of life, though we all know it has its share of bad days.

While biographers have described people who are exceptions

Turning consensual sex into political fodder causes needless humiliation.

and seem able to countenance adultery and marital intimacy at the same time, by and large the reason not to choose adultery is that the pleasure it offers is taken in trade for harming more enduring love and more important loved ones.

But publicly humiliating anyone for consensual adultery is draconian, and wrong. It teaches children cynicism. What they see is how little respect there is for privacy, and how gratuitously and harshly adults will harm one another to gain a little power. And using adultery or any aspect of consensual adult sexuality as a weapon in political battles is more abhorrent than the act itself.

You might say that how and why we disapprove of adultery is as important as whether we do.

The writer, a psychotherapist and author of "Private Matters: In Defense of the Personal Life," contributed this comment to *The New York Times*.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

On Impeachment

What President Bill Clinton could do to ameliorate the effect of a Senate trial on the country is to exercise his option under Section 3 of the 25th Amendment, which would allow him to relinquish the powers of the presidency for at least the duration of the trial.

Such a statesmanlike gesture could even bolster Vice President Al Gore's electoral chances in 2000 by providing him with some valuable on-the-job training. This would constitute a supreme irony for those Republicans who had hoped to destroy Mr. Clinton's legacy.

DON ODUM,
Karlstad, Sweden.

While President Clinton has sullied his reputation and his office, he has not significantly damaged the national interest. That distinction has been left to the relentlessly righteous leadership of the House majority, which has shredded the traditions of proportionality and essential bipartisanship that allow American politics to function. The Republicans will doubtless

pay the price at the polls for this great disservice, but it may be a generation before the U.S. political system regains its balance and the citizens' respect.

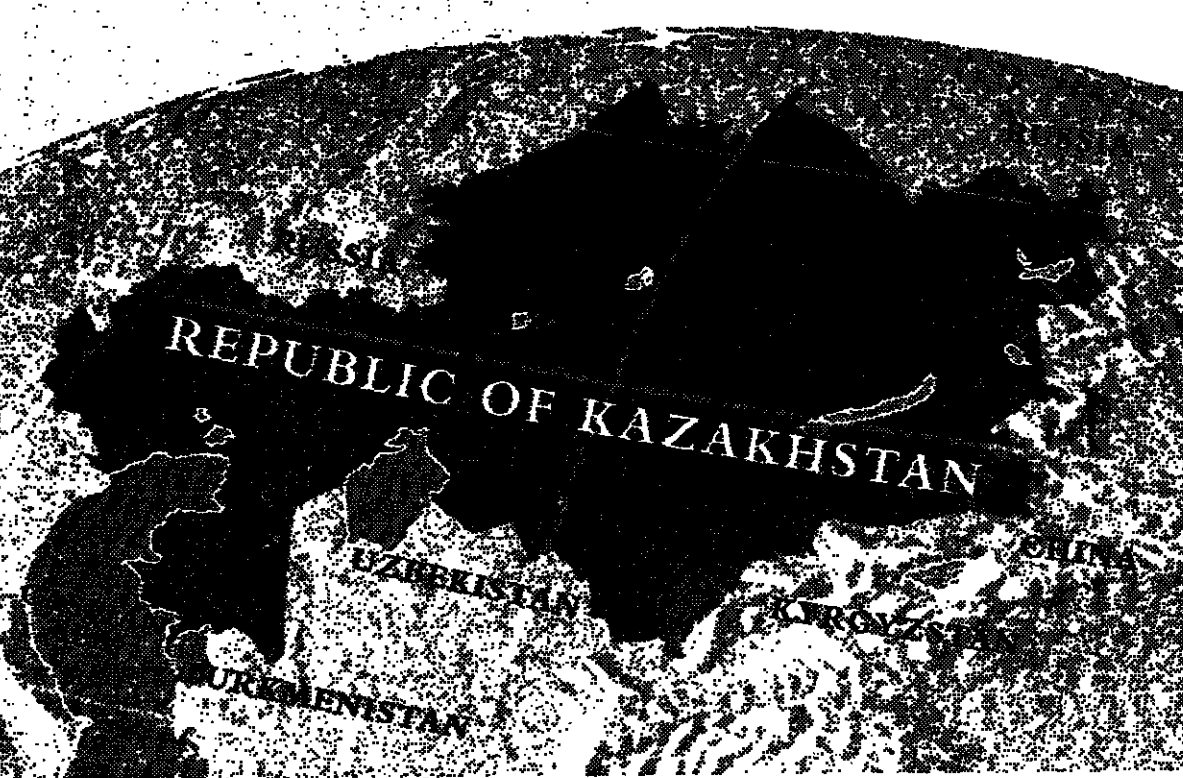
GEORGE L. BUSTIN,
Brussels.

From my expatriate home in Paris, I watched with horror this mockery of my country's consti-

tution. Congratulations to the Republicans for finding a way to rid themselves of a president who embarrassed them and deflated them and emasculated them by his success. By calling it their constitutional "duty" they have made a travesty of due process and ridiculed the founding fathers.

OWEN FRANKEN,
Paris.

In just seven years, we melded over 100 different peoples into one harmonious nation.



This month, the Republic of Kazakhstan proudly celebrates our seventh anniversary and our achievements as an independent nation. After seventy years of religious and political repression and a totally state-owned and controlled media, we have taken bold action to protect human rights.

We have given all of our 16 million people the freedom to practice the religion of their

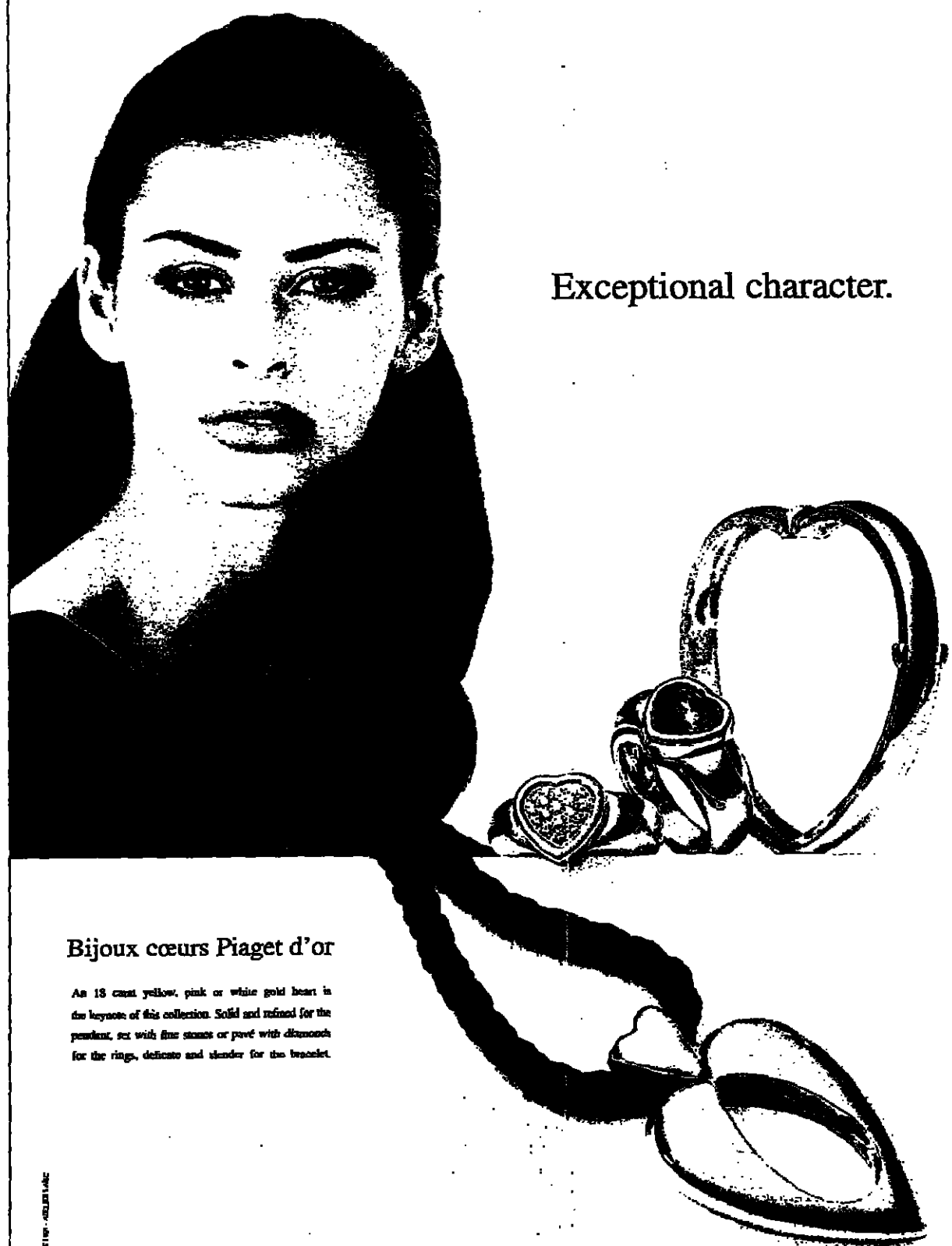
choice — Muslims and Orthodox, Catholics and Jews, Protestants and Buddhists.

We have given Russian equal status with Kazakh as the official language of government, ensuring the full participation of our sizeable Russian minority.

Our President — Nursultan Nazarbaev — set up a Commission on Human Rights to receive citizen complaints and advise on rights issues, working closely with the UN and other international agencies.

We have begun the transition to a wide range of privately owned newspapers, magazines, broadcast networks and stations. We continue to expand the role of an active and independent media.

In today's Kazakhstan, we have created a climate of harmony and tolerance among all our peoples. When contrasted with the strife of so many other countries around the world, this is perhaps our greatest achievement.



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Style

'D' Is for Diamonds Forever — a Dictionary to Treasure

By Suzy Menkes
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — In the alphabet of fashion, "D" is for Dior, but especially for Diamonds. But who doesn't know that? And especially during the holiday season, "G" is for gold as much as for Gucci and "P" for pearl as well as Prada.

You don't get those exact words in the new "Dictionnaire International du Bijou" (Editions du Regard, Paris), a French jewelry encyclopedia that will surely be translated into English.

Whether you call it "diamant" or "diamond," the fat French dictionary with its glossy, strokeable white cover and wealth of images, is a joy for jewelry lovers.

There is an articulated snake slithering its diamond scales across the page toward its tailpiece of emeralds ("C" for Cartier); a realistic beetle spreading turquoise wings from its ugly black head ("S" for scarab), and every conceivable entry from amethysts, blueberry-sized from Van Cleef & Arpels, to Viking treasures in fretted gold.

For those studying the text, it is informative and cogently written. Even if a few entries, like that on jeweler the Jean Schlumberger of Tiffany, seem a bit thin, the volume is generally excellent. Painstakingly edited by Marguerite de Carval, this dictionary defining jewelry yet celebrating their intrinsic magic, will surely become an instant classic.

You could describe the current mood as one of demystifying jewelry. This is certainly true of "Place Vendôme," a film directed by Nicole Garcia and named for the swanky Paris square that famously houses Boucheron, Cartier, Van Cleef & Arpels and other classy jewelers — not to mention the Ritz Hotel.

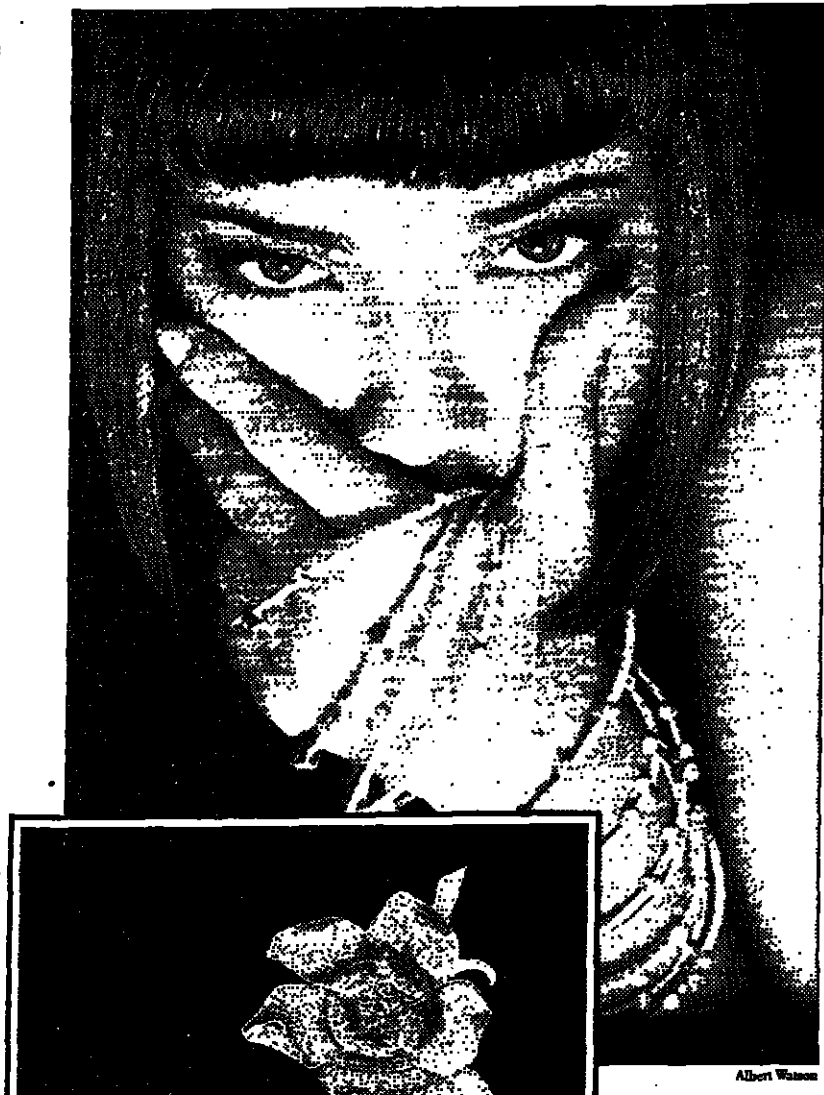
The Paris jewelry trade is furious with what it considers a bad rap for the business, since the movie features a French ice queen, Catherine Deneuve, trading in gemstones, along with a number of shady Russian underworld characters.

Yet however downbeat the scenario, it still suggests the compelling power of diamonds as a symbol of riches.

Young designers are drawn to diamonds as reindeer are to Santa. Encouraged by De Beers biennial Diamonds International Awards, a new generation is looking at the legendary stones, treating them with energy and imagination, but not too much reverence. The resulting pieces from the 1998 awards have been touring the world to give a sparkling send-off to the old century.



Catherine Deneuve as a jewel expert in "Place Vendôme," a film looking at the underbelly of the jewelry trade.



Diamond-studded strands of water-resistant straw designed by Tereza Xavier, a winner of De Beers' Diamonds International contest; at left, Van Cleef & Arpels clips that can be worn separately or hooked together as one ornament.

BOOKS

TIBET Through the Red Box

By Peter Sis. Illustrated. 55 pages. \$25.
Farrar, Straus & Giroux.

Reviewed by Richard Bernstein

THE first thing you will notice about "Tibet: Through the Red Box," by the Czech-born artist Peter Sis, is the haunting beauty of Sis's illustrations. We see labyrinths and landscapes of serene beauty and mystery, the fabulous Potala Palace in Prague, Buddhist mandalas and several views of a quiet study in Prague saturated in nightshade.

These arresting and luscious drawings so dominate the book that you almost fail to notice the text that they accompany, but there is a text, almost an incantation, whose motif is a child's wide-eyed rumination on the magical and strange stories of his father.

Here, from what one gathers from the text, is the story: In 1954, when Peter Sis was a small boy growing up in Soviet-dominated Prague, his father, Vladimir, a filmmaker, left for Beijing to teach filmmaking to Chinese students. From Beijing, Vladimir went to Tibet with his students to make a documentary of a road-building project through the mountains.

Somewhat, however, a landslide separated him from his Chinese hosts, and he became lost in Tibet. After some wandering, he found his way to Lhasa, the Tibetan capital, where he met with the Dalai Lama, then 19, and warned

him of the invasion of his country being engineered by Maoist China. Then a year later Vladimir returned to Prague and to Peter and his family with a small red box in which he kept a diary of his sojourn in Tibet.

Many years later, Peter, a successful writer and illustrator of children's books living in New York, is summoned back to Prague by his father. There Peter opens the red box, kept closed for all of those years, and reads his father's diary. "It's like an ancient antihill or a grave of memories buried in the sweet smell of honey, rosin and sandalwood," he writes, and then embarks on the slender and mystical volume he has put before us.

The story of a man stranded for a year in Tibet in 1954 and of a faraway son who wonders about his fate is, quite simply, fabulously rich in possibilities. "Tibet: Through the Red Box" is in this sense a charming book and a visually beautiful one, but it is also precious and unsatisfyingly cryptic. In appearance and textual style it is a children's book, but it requires a good deal more knowledge of political matters — the Communist takeover of Czechoslovakia, for example, and the Chinese invasion of Tibet — for it to be fully grasped by children.

The book is partly Sis's memoir of his father and partly an imaginative (rather than historically real) evocation of a Tibet that despite his father's warnings was invaded and transformed by China. It is also a somber recollection and transformation into images and words a

childhood made sad by a father's unexplained disappearance.

At the same time, it is too childlike in tone and structure to engage the adult mind even while its adult themes are not for children. Sis's voice is intentionally naive and his story an enchanted-forest tale, but it is one thing to be poetic and philosophically suggestive and another to develop themes and characters about which and whom we would like to know more.

"After all these years, my father is calling me home," is the way Sis begins his tale. What we do not know from the book, but learn from interviews that Sis has given, is that his summons to Prague came when his father fell ill with prostate cancer. The box itself was kept closed all these years because his father, who is still alive, was concerned that it could get him into trouble with Czechoslovakia's Communist authorities, which is another detail we know from interviews, not the book itself.

The book's fabulist elements seem symbolic of a Tibet that is about to be altered forever by entirely nonfabulist Communist Chinese. But Sis's more intense concern is the role that the red box always played for him: a source of wonderment and puzzlement of a lifelong curiosity about Tibet and the father who got lost there and, perhaps, out of fear and hardship, allowed his imagination free rein. So did Sis the younger, and we are beneficiaries of that, even as he whets but does not satisfy our curiosity.

New York Times Service

CHESS

By Robert Byrne

THIS year's United States Olympiad team had a very strong captain, Larry Christiansen of Boston. Unfortunately the United States chess players had a narrow miss and had to be content with the silver medals.

The United States' high point was its remarkable 4-0 whitewash of the strong Dutch team in Round 5. Alex Yermolinsky played a sharp positional game to defeat Jan Timman.

The Rossolimo Variation, 3 Bb5, replaces force with guile in the attempt to

overthrow the Sicilian Defense. Primarily the plan is to give Black doubled c pawns and secondarily to exploit Black's accommodations to the threat.

With 6 Be2, Timman intended to obtain advantage in the center with d4, thus pressing Yermolinsky to leave the main channels of the Sicilian for a French with 6...d5.

After 7...ed, Timman should have preferred to annoy his opponent with 8 Re1!?, when 8...g6 9 d4 cd 10 Nd4 Nd4 is no longer good in view of 11 Qd4.

After 13...h6, Timman should have played for a draw with 14 Be3, but not 14 Be7 Qc7 15 Nd5 Qd6 16 Bf3 Be5 17 Ne3 Qd4 18 Bb7 Rab8 19 Qd4 Bb4 20 Bb6 Rb2 21 Nb5 Bf6 22 a4 Rb4 23 Ra3 Bb2 because there might still be tricks for Black here.

After 16...Be6, Timman was forced to cede the bishop pair with 17 Be5 Ne5 18 de, and Yermolinsky got a powerful passed d pawn.

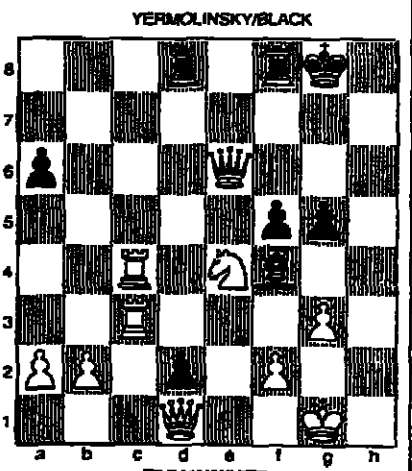
On 19...Qa5!, the d4 pawn was inviolate because 20 Qd4 Rf8 21 Qe4 Bd5 22 Qc2 Rac8 23 Nc3 Bf3 24 gf Be5 favors Black.

Yermolinsky's 22...Bd7! shook the white position. If 23 b3, then 23...Ba4 24 Ra4 Qe5 25 Ba5 d2! 26 Rb1 Rf8 27 Qf1 Qe1 28 Rd1 Qd1 29 Qd1 Re1 wins. If 23 Ne5, then 23...d2 24 Re3 Bf5 25 Ra4 Qc3! 26 bc Bc2! 27 Bf3 Bd1 28 Bd1 Be5 wins.

After 23 Bc6 Bc6 24 Re6 Qd5 25 Re4 Be5, Yermolinsky had recovered his pawn with decisive positional superiority.

On 26...Qd6, Timman tried to open the black king position with 27 h4, but that only worsened his situation.

After 32...Rf6, the white king was the worse off, and Yermolinsky threatened 34...Qe4 to exchange queens and promote the d pawn. In a hopeless situation, Timman blundered with 34 Re3, dropped a rook to 34...Qc4 and gave up.



For Fashion Aficionados, Gift Books Packed With Charm

By Suzy Menkes
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — The weight of words and the power of pictures — those are the strengths of the fashion books you might find as a big bulge in your Christmas stocking. A hefty tome, stuffed with information, but with great visual appeal is the new look for your gracing bookshelves.

One of the most stylish is "The Fashion Book" (Phaidon Press, London), which has translated a formula already used for fine art into the universe of style.

As in "The Art Book," where Constable, Matisse or Van Gogh were represented by one seminal image, each entry of designer, illustrator, icon or personality is given a single, defining image. Just 200 concise words relate picture to person, explaining her/his importance to and influence on fashion.

The result is a dazzling compilation of photographs that often have a haunting quality — like the sensual, decadent image of a sprawled model by the late photographer Guy

Bourdin — famous for leaving actress Ursula Andress naked on a glass table for six hours while combing Paris for exactly the right shade of rose petals to match her skin.

The concept of selecting the perfect, opposite image inevitably works best when the designer's fashion "moment" is already pinioned like a butterfly in its era: Pierre Cardin's groovy 1960s group in geometric dresses, or that famous Helmut Newton photograph in 1975 of an androgynous figure wearing an Yves Saint Laurent tuxedo in a rain-soaked Paris alley.

The entry for YSL — indeterminate long dress and text nattering on about the makeup artist — is banal to a degree. It proves how hard it is to caption a fashion force in a single image — and how smart the editor Tamasin Doe is to get it right so often.

Any fashion aficionado would certainly drool over so many striking and historic images, which include splendid period pieces, from the graphic illustrations of Paul Iribe in the early part of the century, to the Hollywood designer Nolan Miller posing with the cast of "Dynasty" in the 1980s.

"The London Fashion Book" (Rizzoli International, New York) is about local history. But when that locality happens to be the swinging London of the 1960s through the current Cool Britannia of Tony Blair's Britain, there is a lot of fun to be had — and the author, Andrew Tucker, makes the most of it.

Focusing both on people and on different districts of London, the book takes the reader on an insider's tour that goes into the jumbled interior of a vintage store in hip Notting Hill, into the funky, punky streets of Soho and even inside the hallowed rooms of Saint Martin's College of Art and Design — the cradle for so many new generation Britpop designers.

So there are no founding mothers and fathers, like Vivienne Westwood and Paul Smith?

You bet. Even John Galiano, who has upped and left London for Paris, gets an homage in words and pictures that spans six pages.

Perhaps the image that best captures the London spirit is not Westwood, flaked out in her platform shoes on a park bench, but the model on an open-topped bus, wearing a vast hat by Philip Treacy, which passes by the Houses of Parliament and the River Thames like a gullion in full sail.

Math and fashion do not make obvious partners, but the book that best captures the quirky charm and visual splendor of genuine style is called Anna Piaggi's "Fashion Algebra" (Thames and Hudson, London).

Its author is the legendary and original fashion editor whose brilliant eye has captured what's hot, what's cool and what is classically beautiful on magazine pages, most recently for Italian Vogue.

The Double Pages that Piaggi has produced for a decade, in collaboration with the fashion historian Vern Lambert, who died in 1992, and with the photographer Alfa Castaldi, are an intoxicating collage of her visual references.

HOW do they add up? Backed by Piaggi's deep culture, her gadfly eye hops from a straw Gianfranco Ferre hat to a Thonet rocking chair or takes on kitsch, cute and clichéd references to Stars and Stripes.

Fashion's obsession with daisies is shown in earrings and flower prints through the marguerite penciled around Twiggy's eye in her cover-girl days in the 1960s.

Not incidentally, Piaggi also offers history lessons, hiding her erudition in the upbeat images that have triggered connections in her mind. This is a book from which you could learn about historic lace or discover the essence of provincial chic.

Like all great editors, Piaggi, who is herself a colorful character and dresses like a perambulating fashion museum, keeps herself outside her pages — but puts her fashion heart and soul into them.

The trend for didactic but attractive fashion books was seeded by Editions Assouline, whose "Fashion Memoirs" now seem to have included anyone who has wielded a pair of dressmaker's scissors and anything that has ever hung on a clothing rack.

Always elegantly laid out with pertinent pictures and a concise text, offerings soon to be published include: an edition on Kenzo and another edition on the shoe designer Roger Vivier in the "Memoire de la Mode" series; a book on the jewelry designer Harry Winston and a separate volume on Chanel jewelry in the "Memoire de la Joaillerie" series; and two volumes of "Memoire de la Beaute" focusing on Lan- come and Helena Rubinstein.

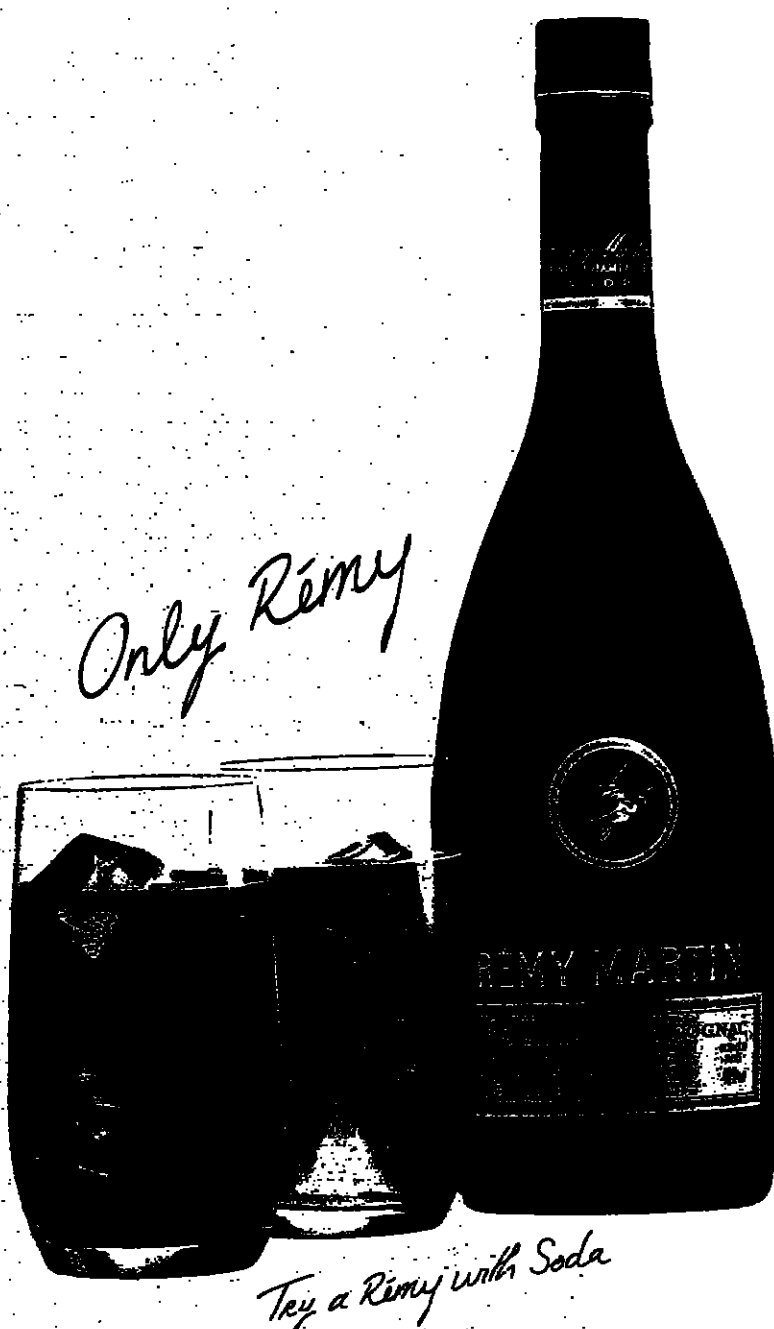


Philip Treacy's black feather hat, worn by Michelle Paradise, from the "The London Fashion Book."



A pink satin pump, embroidered with pearls and sequins, from "Memoire de la Mode: Roger Vivier."

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A gigantic straw hat by Gianfranco Ferre and rocking chairs by Thonet from Anna Piaggi's "Fashion Algebra."

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INTERNATIONAL

'Cat and Mouse' Over

U.S. Plans to Keep Up Pressure on Saddam

By Joseph Fitchett
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — With United Nations arms inspectors no longer able to function in Iraq, the Clinton administration intends to apply open-ended, direct military pressure on the Baghdad regime until the Iraqi leader, Saddam Hussein, finds a way to clear his country's record on clandestine weapons, a senior American official said Monday.

Describing the U.S. policy as "containment plus," the Clinton aide, who spoke by telephone from Washington, said that "the cat-and-mouse game with the inspectors is over and the burden of proof has shifted to the Iraqi regime."

This stance will disappoint France, China, Russia and other countries hoping to see the current crisis lead to negotiations that offer Baghdad an end to UN sanctions in exchange for a long-term system of monitoring Iraqi weapons development without the inspections of the special UN team, known as UNSCOM.

"In practice, Washington seems to be signaling that it will no longer deal with Iraq as long as Saddam Hussein is there," a French official said. The French government had expressed hope that the U.S. air raids amounted to finishing the job that the UN inspectors had been unable to complete.

But the U.S. official indicated that Iraq would have to find a way to make more concessions curbing its military potential before President Bill Clinton would consider reviewing the punitive sanctions. Iraq's leaders "have an af-

firmative obligation to disclose their military accounts and they can figure out a mechanism for doing it — perhaps with help from countries that want to get a resolve," he said.

If this stance produces a stalemate, experts noted, the United States has enough firepower in the Gulf to keep Mr. Saddam bottled up for several years — at least for the duration of Mr. Clinton's presidency.

"The Clinton team's goal may have been to do enough bombing to end the circus with inspectors that was grabbing time and headlines," according to John Pike, an official at the American Federation of Scientists, who in the past has been critical of the Clinton administration's failure to launch heavier strikes against Iraq's weapons programs. But the U.S. goal may simply have been to gain more time — a year's additional delay in missile programs that were already two years away from posing a threat to neighboring countries, according to U.S. military spokesmen.

If the confrontation heads toward fewer but potentially bigger incidents, the key becomes U.S. military credibility, and Samuel Berger, the national security adviser, justified last week's air raids in precisely those terms.

"We're going to continue to have to contain Saddam Hussein, just as we have for the last seven years, and the most important instrument is the credible threat of force," Mr. Berger was quoted in The Washington Post as having said during the weekend.

"For me, the most important reason why we had to do this was that to have failed to do so not only would have lost UNSCOM but would have lost the credible threat of force," he said, implying that the UN team of arms inspectors had reached the end of its useful life. Mr. Berger added that the timing of the air strikes reflected a "constellation of forces" — including tacit French and Russian acquiescence — that was liable to dissipate.

But the U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity Monday said that Washington targeted its bombing to carry a warning of continuing U.S. pressure. He said the damage had weakened the Iraqi regime's power base and military-industrial complex without harming Iraqi civilians or directly worsening their plight. Most important of all, he said, the bombs hitting command-and-control centers carried a message of worse to come if Iraq posed new threats.

As a sign of U.S. determination, the Clinton aide confirmed that the air strikes had sought to kill large numbers

of elite Iraqi forces by catching them asleep in their barracks with the first salvos. "We don't know the extent of human casualties and we do know that the Iraqis are doing their best to keep it secret," he said.

Along with several other independent experts, Mr. Pike said that casualties must have been heavy — "in the high hundreds or low thousands" — in light of the reported damage to facilities manned by Iraq's Republican Guards and intelligence services.

A French official said that his government was "puzzled" by Iraqi secretiveness about human losses. Normally, casualties have been exploited for propaganda purposes, but this time, he said, losses were possibly too severe to disclose in Iraq.

Reviewing satellite photographs and damage estimates, experts said that U.S.

missiles and British bombers struck three main categories of targets: elite Iraqi units protecting the regime; facilities for making missiles, and an oil refinery near the port of Basrah that had been turning out oil products that earned an estimated \$100 million a year from smugglers for the Iraqi regime.

"The Americans got the big missile facilities that would worry Iraq's neighbors," according to Francois Heisbourg, a French defense specialist, citing strikes at Taji, Zafaraniyah and Shahtayt — installations where Iraq was allegedly planning to upgrade its short-range missiles, authorized under UN rules, to enable them to reach cities in Saudi Arabia.

But Mr. Heisbourg and Mr. Pike agreed that the U.S. air strikes were far from knockout blows to any major Iraqi weapons programs.

Britain brushed aside criticism of its participation in the raids and said it was confident of forging a diplomatic consensus that would keep Mr. Saddam isolated.

"There should be no carrots without sticks," Deputy Foreign Minister Derek Fatchett said.

Mr. Blair defended the strikes vigorously in a CNN interview. He said the way forward now was to contain Mr. Saddam, if necessary through military force, to tighten sanctions and to investigate whether it was possible to put a "proper" regime into Baghdad. "We will do whatever we can to bring about the downfall of Saddam," he said.

Military officials in Washington said that it could take several months to determine whether the air strikes, against about 100 targets in Iraq, had achieved the goal of degrading Mr. Saddam's



Two U.S. warplanes flying by the guided missile cruiser Gettysburg in the Gulf during a ceremony on Monday. Aircraft from the carrier Enterprise are to resume patrols of a no-flight zone over southern Iraq.

U.S., Britain and Iraq Sort Through Damage

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BAGHDAD — U.S. and British air strikes demolished Iraq's two main factories for producing parts for short-range missiles permitted by the United Nations, officials said Monday.

Speaking at a news conference in Baghdad, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz also said that the four nights of strikes had killed 62 soldiers and wounded 180 others. He said civilian casualties were "much, much higher," but he did not give figures.

"The serious damage was in civilian sites," he said, calling it "the American way of war."

He added that Iraq remained on high alert and that he believed the attacks could resume.

In halting the strikes Saturday, President Bill Clinton said the assault had severely damaged President Saddam Hussein's ability to build weapons of mass destruction. Mr. Clinton ordered the strikes after a report by the chief United Nations weapons inspector, Richard Butler, said Iraq was obstructing the inspectors' work.

The attacks on the factories near Baghdad appeared to be part of a strategy to destroy installations that could be used to produce weapons of mass destruction. Besides the missile facilities, nearly all of Iraq's other military factories were attacked and many sustained heavy damage, Iraqi officials said.

Mr. Aziz, however, maintained that the strikes had failed to dent the Iraqi military might, and he accused Mr. Clinton and Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain of lying about the raids' success.

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Military officials in Washington said that it could take several months to determine whether the air strikes, against about 100 targets in Iraq, had achieved the goal of degrading Mr. Saddam's

warmaking capability. Officials said about three-quarters of the targets had sustained damage.

"We consider this a very successful attack at this point," said General Henry Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Still, Pentagon officials have cautioned that pictures of bomb damage are often deceptive and that Iraq might have to be attacked again.

Rear Admiral J. Cutler Dawson Jr., commander of the eight-vessel battle group supporting the aircraft carrier Enterprise in the Gulf, praised the accuracy of his pilots and denied claims by Iraq that hospitals or other civilian sites could have been hit by misdirected U.S. strikes.

The air wing commander on the ship, Captain Tom Hagen, told the Enterprise crew that preliminary analyses showed that 72 percent of the air strikes were on target.

That estimate did not take into account Tomahawk cruise missile strikes and only included the more than 300 missions flown off the Enterprise during the four nights of attacks. An additional 350 sorties were flown off the ground, including flights by B-1 and B-2 bombers and British Tornado fighter-bombers.

In Baghdad, there were few signs of damage as life returned to normal Monday, although reporters were restricted in their movements around the city.

Iraqi authorities have not taken foreign journalists to sites where there were significant civilian casualties, as they have in the past — a possible indication that civilian casualties either were not high or were scattered.

Mr. Aziz said that of the 62 members of the military who were killed, 38 were from the elite Republican Guard.

"What they really destroyed are barracks of the Republican Guard and the Special Republican Guard," Mr. Aziz said. "Barracks and buildings cannot be moved and cannot be protected. These barracks and buildings can and certainly will be rebuilt."

Iraqi officials said that among the sites attacked were the al-Nasser missile parts factory in Taji, 60 kilometers (40 miles) north of Baghdad, and the al-Nida factory, south of the capital.

The officials said the attacks had virtually halted Iraqi efforts to produce short-range missiles. They said the speed of the attacks took them by surprise and said workers did not have enough time to remove crucial equipment from either factory.

(AP, Reuters, AFP, WP)

IRAQ: Under UN Pressure, U.S. May End Nuclear Inspections

Continued from Page 1

restructuring of the Special Commission, another unacceptable course for Washington.

Diplomats said Monday that closing the nuclear file seems to be the most palatable of limited choices for Washington as the Security Council begins to negotiate a compromise plan for dealing with President Saddam Hussein.

Paul Leventhal, president of the independent Nuclear Control Institute in Washington, said in an interview on Monday that the administration appears to believe that agreeing to close the nuclear file will save the Special Commission, known as UNSCOM. He added that given the pressures on Mr. Butler — and Iraq's determination not to work with him or his commission in the future — it may not be possible to keep the old inspection system intact. All the inspectors are now out of Iraq.

Mr. Leventhal's research institute has recommended that the commission be given control of nuclear inspections because, he said, the International Atomic Energy Agency has been "bamboozled" by the Iraqis and let Mr. Saddam's government off too lightly.

"At the very least, the IAEA should be held accountable for its nonalarmist assessment of Iraq's nuclear weapons program," Mr. Leventhal said, adding that there are major unanswered questions on Iraqi weapons designs and other data.

"The IAEA trivializes all missing information," he said.

In an article to be published this week in Arms Control Today, the journal of the independent Arms Control Institute in Washington, two other nuclear experts say that "essentially all of Iraq's pre-Gulf War nuclear facilities and equipment have been eliminated or converted to nonproscribed purposes."

But the article — by David Albright, president of the Institute for Science and International Security in Washington, and Khidir Hamza, an exile Iraqi nuclear scientist who was formerly in charge of developing a nuclear weapon for Iraq — say that intensive research has continued in Iraq to solve problems the bomb program encountered earlier.

"These activities include design work, laboratory efforts, subcomponent production and the operation of test machines," the article said. It concluded that "Iraq could make a nuclear device within two to 12 months after deciding to do so, assuming it acquired sufficient material." If the material were highly enriched uranium, the authors wrote, "the more probable time is closer to two months."

Given Iraq's nuclear potential and Baghdad's policy of placing experts in chemical and biological weapons under the umbrella of atomic programs and therefore largely out of the reach of inspectors from the Special Commission, the limitations of long-term monitoring have been at the heart of the debate within the United States.

Doubts have intensified since the Iraqis began demonstrating in August that they are likely to forbid post follow-up inspections if these become necessary. The Iraqis have also blocked visits to private

homes and institutions, where experts say work on all programs is hidden.

Long-term monitoring, which the United Nations calls "ongoing monitoring and verification," was intended to be backed by the right of monitors to look at any sites deemed suspect because of information collected by sensors or by other means like the international policy of exports to Iraq.

The pressure on the Security Council to find a common course of action on Iraq is coming not only from member nations but also from Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who said Monday morning that "it is not helpful that the Council is divided."

"I would hope that in the weeks ahead, we'll find a way of bringing everyone together so that we can carry on the essential work of the Council," he said. In the meantime, he has asked the Iraqis for their views through his special envoy in Baghdad, Prakash Shah, and he seems inclined to accept that UNSCOM may be in line for an overhaul, and that Iraq's views need to be considered.

Several governments say that we need a new structure, we need a new inspection mechanism," he said. "I don't know what that means. I don't know what that entails. I don't know what kind of structure they have in mind, but it could emerge after the discussions. We first need to find out the posture of Iraq."

Alain Dejammet, France's representative, echoed Iraqi demands when he told reporters who asked about the future of the Special Commission on Monday morning that "we need something, but we need something which is really professional and interested in monitoring."

Mr. Dejammet said that he was not necessarily thinking of a new organization, but something that was more "in harmony" with the intentions of the Special Commission's creators in 1991. That is usually shorthand for a body ready to move more quickly to the lifting of sanctions, a process that diplomats thought would be finished in a matter of months. It has still not been completed after more than seven years.

ISRAEL: Parliament Approves Early Vote

Continued from Page 1

two further readings to become law, possibly as early as next week.

Agreement on a date for the election must also be reached. Mr. Netanyahu favors late April, days shy of the May 4 deadline when Mr. Arafat has said he reserves the right to declare an independent Palestinian state.

The cabinet suspended the Wye agreement Sunday, formalizing a freeze that Mr. Netanyahu had imposed earlier this month as he wrestled to win back hard-line coalition rebels opposed to giving up occupied land in the West Bank.

Mr. Netanyahu was elected in mid-1996 to a term that was due to end in late 2000. He will remain in power in a caretaker capacity with full powers in the run-up to early polls.

He made no mention in his speech of the divisions wrought by the Wye accord in his coalition of rightist and religious parties, which has clung to a 61-to-59 majority in Parliament.

Instead, he portrayed the march to the ballot box as a chance for Israelis to choose between his tough "peace with security" policies and those of the left-center Labor Party, which struck the landmark Oslo interim peace deal with Mr. Arafat in 1993.

"I promise you that Arafat is the first person who thinks any alternative is better than Netanyahu," he said. "The whole world understands this. Every Palestinian understands this. And most of the nation understands this."

Palestinians branded Mr. Netanyahu's conditions unacceptable, while Mr. Barak said the government had scrapped the peace process and fallen hostage to extremists.

"The prime minister won't teach me about Israel's security," Mr. Barak, a former army chief of staff, said. "Agreements must be honored," he said. "The trust must be renewed. This

government has abandoned the peace process which it signed up to."

(Reuters, AP)

Palestinians See Stalemate

Joel Greenberg of The New York Times reported from Ramallah, West Bank.

With their latest accord with Israel, already frozen, Palestinian officials view Israel's early elections as an uncertain gamble that holds out a prospect for change but ensures a deepening stalemate in peace efforts in the coming months.

There was a strong sense among lawmakers gathered in Ramallah on Monday for a session of the Palestinian legislative council that peace efforts have once again become subject to the vagaries of Israeli domestic politics.

Courting rightist support before Monday's parliamentary vote on new elections, Mr. Netanyahu secured approval by his cabinet Sunday for a series of conditions for further troop withdrawals in the West Bank, effectively suspending the land-for-security accord signed Oct. 23 in Washington. Chief among those conditions was a demand that the Palestinian Authority "abandon its intention to unilaterally declare a Palestinian state" on May 4, 1999, when the interim self-rule agreements with Israel expire.

Mr. Netanyahu contends that he simply wants an end to Palestinian violations of the agreement. But to Palestinians, his conditions are excuses to renege on the accord, boding ill for the coming months even though Mr. Netanyahu might ultimately be unseated.

Some Palestinian officials expect a deepening diplomatic paralysis.

"He should not kidnap the peace process as a hostage to achieve what he is planning," said Ahmad Korieh, known as Abu Alan, the speaker of the legislative council and an architect of the 1993 Oslo accords. "No doubt this election will freeze the agreement and it will be very dangerous. We are waiting for May 4, this is the last chance for this agreement."



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Copper Collapse Dents Chile Economic Miracle

By Clifford Krauss
New York Times Service

TIERRA AMARILLA, Chile—Five months ago, the copper mine where Mario Olivares had dug, drilled and hammered for the last six years shut down under the pressure of collapsing world copper prices. After getting a monthly salary equivalent to more than \$400, he now earns less than a dollar a day selling flavored ices from his wooden shack.

About 1,000 miners have lost their jobs this year in this town of 14,000 people set in the desert badlands of northern Chile. The earnings of thousands of others have been reduced by more than 20 percent.

Strapped for money, the local government has been forced to cut housing subsidies and hours at the local health clinic. Drug and alcohol use are on the rise, local officials say.

School attendance on Saturdays to make up for class time lost during a teachers' strike has been surprisingly high, administrators say, because the children want the free lunches.

"My family could use more food," said Mr. Olivares, 36, who has begun looking for seasonal agricultural work at a far lower salary than before. "I see more poverty in the future."

The changes in fortune for Mr. Olivares and Tierra Amarilla are a direct result of the economic slowdown in Asia, which has pummeled the prices of many commodities that are the economic lifeblood of developing countries.

Chile has been South America's economic model for 20 years, with growth rates averaging more than 8 percent a year over the last decade. The country led the way in privatizing inefficient state-owned businesses, and its privatized pension system has been adopted by Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay.

But now Chile's economic miracle is stumbling, mostly because nearly 40 percent of its export earnings come from copper. From \$1.19 a pound in June 1997, copper's price on the world market has declined to 65 cents a pound, its lowest level since 1987. That has meant a loss of \$1.5 billion in export earnings in the first 10 months of this year.

The effects could have been far worse had oil prices not also tumbled, saving Chile more than \$200 million over the

same period. Nevertheless, the signs of a painful adjustment are everywhere in a country that has become increasingly middle class over the last generation.

Sales of cars, televisions, houses and apartments have dropped sharply in the last few months. The economy, which grew by more than 7 percent in 1997, will grow by only 4 percent this year. That would not be bad if most of the growth had not come before June.

[The International Monetary Fund said Monday that it had revised downward its growth forecast in 1999 for most of Latin America, including Chile. Reuters reported from Washington.]

[The fund predicted regional growth of 2 percent, down from 3 percent. The outlook for Brazil has deteriorated significantly, the IMF added, and its economy is now expected to shrink by 1 percent next year.]

In Chile, zero-to-negative growth for the fourth quarter is expected by most economists to remain constant for at least the first half of 1999. Unemployment has increased to 6.9 percent from 6.5 percent in the last year and government economists predict continuing deterioration to at least 8.5 percent by June.

But for all the bad news, a consensus has emerged among local businessmen and economists, government officials and Wall Street analysts: Chile should rebound in the second half of next year, unless a Brazilian financial collapse shakes the entire South American economy or if General Augusto Pinochet's extradition proceedings in London set off political turbulence here.

The analysts note that the Chilean peso has remained stable, the local stock market has revived in recent months and the Central Bank has lowered interest rates several times over the last two months. While foreign investment has slowed, Exxon and Procter and Gamble recently announced major new investments.

And, unlike several Asian economies that have been shaken by the collapse of weak banks, strong government regulation and the emergence of many foreign banks in recent years have kept the Chilean financial sector sound.

"We have an economy that's decelerating very sharply," said Jose de Gregorio, an economist at the University of Chile. "But overall, the country is strong. It's an open economy, there's low corruption and the financial system remains strong."



MAKING MINIATURES IN A SHRINKING CLIMATE — An ETS craftsman in Prague assembling a reproduction model of a turn-of-the-century locomotive. With the Czech Republic undergoing a credit crunch, the company, which employs 15 and contracts out more work, cannot get the financing to expand. Page 15.

AMP to Acquire British Life Insurer

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — AMP Ltd., Australia's biggest fund manager, agreed Monday to buy National Provident Institution, a British life insurer, for 3.6 billion Australian dollars (\$2.24 billion).

The deal calls for AMP to pay 1.4 billion dollars to NPI members and inject 2.2 billion dollars in capital to strengthen NPI's financial position.

AMP said it would make the acquisition through its wholly owned subsidiaries AMP (UK) PLC and Pearl Assurance PLC and demutualize National Provident Institution, canceling the membership rights of policy holders.

NPI, like other insurers in Britain, Australia and Canada, is abandoning mutual ownership because it is easier to grow with a shareholder structure. Because they failed to keep pace, mutual insurers have been takeover targets. AMP lost out last year when it tried to buy Scottish Amicable, which went to Prudential Corp. of Britain for \$2.8 billion (\$4.71 billion).

"AMP's quite a powerful operation

now," said Eamonn Flanagan, an insurance analyst with Charterhouse Tilney Securities in Liverpool, England.

George Trumbull, AMP's chief executive officer, said buying National Provident Institution made strategic sense for the Australian insurer because it was highly complementary with AMP's existing British businesses.

"We have made it clear that AMP's strategy was to broaden the group's product and service offerings, the geographic markets and the types of customers covered and the ways the group distributes its products," Mr. Trumbull said.

AMP, which is engaged in a 3.3 dollar billion hostile takeover of Australia's fourth-largest general insurer, GIO Australia Holdings Ltd., is trying to reduce its dependence on investment income, which generated 80 percent of earnings in the first half.

"We'll continue to look for other acquisitions, but I think we will focus on integration for now," Mr. Trumbull said. "We certainly have more capacity than we'll use on these two transactions."

Mr. Flanagan and other British analysts said AMP paid slightly more than expected for NPI.

"It looks like a fairly full price for this business, but you can see why they did it," said Trevor May, an analyst at Salomon Smith Barney.

Mr. Flanagan said AMP needed the acquisition more than other bidders, which included CGU PLC and Swiss Life. That is because it makes AMP's British operation big enough to join the Financial Times-Stock Exchange 100 benchmark stock index if AMP sells shares to the public.

AMP is expected to contribute to the cost of NPI converting from mutual ownership as part of the deal. The Australian firm, founded in 1849, itself converted from a mutual society to a corporation on Jan. 1.

NPI specializes in retirement-related financial services to both individual and corporate clients. The acquisition of NPI will bring AMP's funds under management to approximately 200 billion dollars. (AFP, Bloomberg)

U.S. Stocks Surge After House Vote

Investors Believe Clinton Will Remain President

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — U.S. stocks rose strongly Monday on expectations for President Bill Clinton to keep his job and on relief that air strikes against Iraq had ended.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 85.22 points higher at 8,988.85, while the broader Standard & Poor's 500 index finished up 14.81 points at a record 1,202.84. Technology issues were particularly strong, helping send the Nasdaq composite index up 51.88 points to close at a record 2,138.02.

Gaining issues outnumbered losing ones by a 3-to-2 ratio on the New York Stock Exchange.

The House of Representatives voted Saturday to impeach the president on one count of perjury and one of obstruction of justice connected to his relationship with Monica Lewinsky, a former White House intern. The Senate will now hold a trial to determine whether to remove Mr. Clinton from office.

But many analysts and investors do not expect that to happen.

"The market believes that it's extremely unlikely the Republicans will muster enough votes," said Kevin Colglazier, a fund manager at Global Asset Management.

The end of air strikes on Iraq also lifted stocks. Investors who had moved money into the Treasury bond market as a haven against prolonged tension in the Middle East began to move those funds back to the stock market on Monday.

"This is the seasonally strong time of the year," said Bill Meehan, chief market strategist for Cantor Fitzgerald. "There were no surprises over the weekend, and the Iraq situation is over."

The price of the benchmark 30-year Treasury bond fell 25/32 point, closing at 102 29/32, sending the yield up to 5.06 percent from 5.01 percent on Friday.

"Stocks are strong enough to keep pressure on the bond," said Roger Early at Delaware Investments. Stocks tend to gain about 1.5 percent in the final trading days of the year, according to the Hirsch

See MARKET, Page 14

Thinking Ahead / Commentary

Americans Indulging in Eurobashing

By Reginald Dale
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — Are we witnessing the debut of a new kind of ugly American, one determined to treat Europeans with arrogance and disdain even as they strengthen their unity by adopting a single currency?

So say two prominent Europeans, William Wallace of the London School of Economics and Britain's House of Lords, and Jan Zielonka of the European University Institute in Florence, who write in Foreign Affairs magazine that "Eurobashing is back in fashion in the United States."

Their view is supported by European officials who complain that Americans are once again warning of a protectionist "Fortress Europe" as the bulk of Western Europe approaches economic and monetary union — just as they did when the European single market was introduced in the early 1990s.

There is no denying that the imminent arrival of the single currency, the euro, has provoked some alarmist reactions in the United States. One well-known economist, Martin Feldstein, has predicted that monetary union will generate such tensions it could lead to war. Others have also been highly, if less hysterically, critical.

But that does not mean that Eurobashing is all the rage. The more extreme criticisms shock mainstream American observers of Europe as much

as they do Europeans. U.S. policy remains officially supportive of the latest move to integration, just as it has been of previous steps.

What is true is that many Americans, particularly from the center rightward, have long been suspicious of the form of integration that Europe has embraced since the mid-1950s. Virtually by definition, they regard the centralized institutions in Brussels as far too bureaucratic, if not socialist, just as they would an excessive concentration of U.S. political power in Washington.

Some of these Americans reject the idea that Europeans could ever make such a union genuinely open and democratic — not least because of the influence of traditionally dirigiste countries led by arch-interventionist France.

Their suspicions, of course, have intensified following Europe's so-called "lurch to the left," the recent coming to power of center-left governments in 11 of the 15 member countries of the European Union. Many of their fears are exaggerated.

But Americans — and Europeans, too — are right to be suspicious when they hear Oskar Lafontaine, Germany's new leftist finance minister, talking of ending "unfair" tax competition in the European Union and the French Socialist government led by Prime Minister Lionel Jospin stressing the need for a "social Europe."

Such thinking is ominously reminiscent of the social engineering so

beloved by Jacques Delors, the former French president of the European Commission, who was seen by many — especially in Britain and America — as the embodiment of an over-regulated, interventionist Europe.

These latest concerns come on top of understandable anxiety in the Clinton administration that Continental Europe's protectionist instincts will lead the EU to repel a new flood of cheap imports from countries hit by the Asian economic crisis, preventing Europe from playing the role it should in resolving the crisis alongside the United States.

It is also true, as Lord Wallace and Mr. Zielonka write, that there remains a certain American ambivalence as to how far European integration should go "for fear it could produce a true global rival" — an ambivalence that is rendered more acute by the euro's advent.

Inevitably, all this will lead to some Eurobashing, and that is not necessarily bad. Heightened American criticism of Europe is partly due to the recognition that, with the euro, Europe will become more powerful as Asia's influence, if only temporarily, wanes.

Some American concerns are justified. A little Eurobashing should not impede the building of a closer transatlantic partnership — any more than the America-bashing that constantly emanates from Europe.

E-mail address: Thinkahead@washpost.com

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Cross Rates									
	\$	£	DM	FF	Yen	Sc	Sw	DK	Nor
Australian	1.06	1.18	1.22	1.25	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11
Canadian	1.06	1.18	1.22	1.25	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11
French	1.06	1.18	1.22	1.25	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11
German	1.06	1.18	1.22	1.25	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11
Japanese	1.06	1.18	1.22	1.25	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11
Swedish	1.06	1.18	1.22	1.25	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11
Swiss	1.06	1.18	1.22	1.25	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11
UK	1.06	1.18	1.22	1.25	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11
US Dollar	1.06	1.18	1.22	1.25	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11
Other Dollar Values									
Argentine	1.06	1.18	1.22	1.25	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11
Australian	1.06	1.18	1.22	1.25	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11
Canadian	1.06	1.18	1.22	1.25	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11
French	1.06	1.18	1.22	1.25	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11
German	1.06	1.18	1.22	1.25	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11
Japanese	1.06	1.18	1.22	1.25	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11
Swedish	1.06	1.18	1.22	1.25	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11
Swiss	1.06	1.18	1.22	1.25	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11
UK	1.06	1.18	1.22	1.25	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11
US Dollar	1.06	1.18	1.22	1.25	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11
Forward Rates									
	30-day	60-day	90-day	180-day	360-day	540-day	720-day	900-day	1080-day
Forward Sterling	1.0607	1.0607	1.0607	1.0607	1.0607	1.0607	1.0607	1.0607	1.0607
Forward Dollar	1.0607	1.0607	1.0607	1.0607	1.0607	1.0607	1.0607	1.0607	1.0607
Forward Yen	1.0607	1.0607	1.0607	1.0607	1.0607	1.0607	1.0607	1.0607	1.0607

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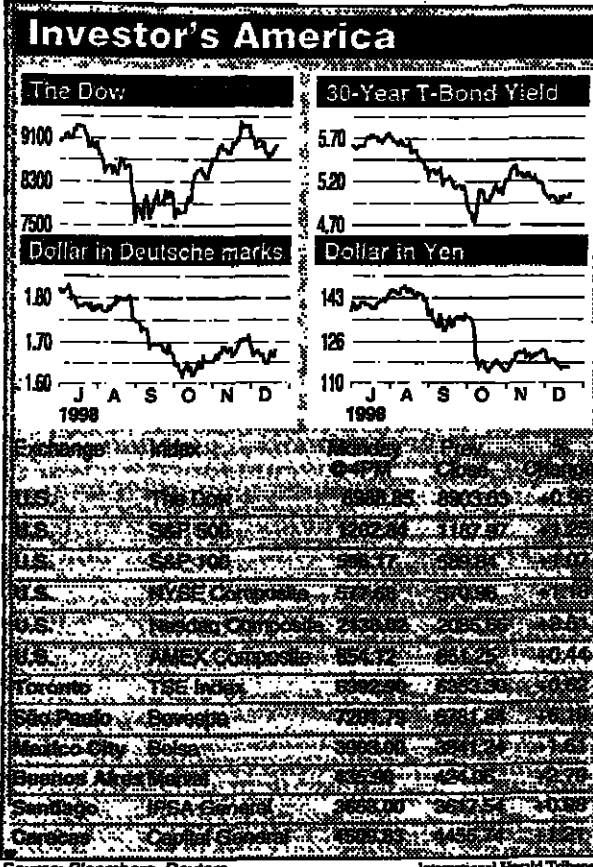
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THE AMERICAS



Dollar Rises Amid Hopes For Clinton

Bloomberg News
NEW YORK — The dollar rose against most other major currencies Monday as U.S. stocks rallied and as expectations rose that President Bill Clinton will not be impeached from office by the Senate, following his impeachment over the weekend by the House of Representatives.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Clinton, he said. "People are tired of this dragging out."
The dollar was quoted at 4 P.M. at 1.6711 DM, up from 1.6650 DM on Friday, and it rose to 5.6025 French francs from 5.5840 francs and to 1.3587 Swiss francs from 1.3486 francs.

The U.S. currency slipped slightly to 116.165 yen from 116.30 yen. The pound edged up to \$1.6831 from \$1.6810.

The House impeached Mr. Clinton Saturday on charges of perjury and obstruction of justice, setting the stage for a trial in the Senate. The U.S. currency rose after traders concluded the Senate was unlikely to impeach Clinton.

Also lifting the dollar was the rally in the Dow Jones industrial average, which closed 85.22 points higher at 7,088.85.

Still, the prospect of a trial, which could divert lawmakers from economic issues, will probably limit the dollar's gains in coming days, traders said. "The view is that it's not going to be a runaway, but it's going to be a gradual, politically damaging affair," said Clark McGinnis, head of sales and marketing at Royal Bank of Scotland. "We see the dollar staying at about these levels" through the end of the year.

Traders also said the gains may be exaggerated because investors were reluctant to place big bets before the end of the year.

The dollar got support from news that German export growth slowed in the third quarter, giving the European Central Bank more scope to cut European interest rates next year.

"We are seeing more signs of a slowdown in Europe, no question," said Stephen Gallagher, an economist at Societe Generale. "Continental Europe needs to make the transition to domestic-led growth."

U.S. Personal Saving Rate Slips Below Zero

By Sylvia Nasar
New York Times Staff Writer

NEW YORK — Americans should be saving like crazy. Baby boomers are now in their prime earning years; the oldest among the 78 million boomers born between 1946 to 1964 are due to retire in a decade or so. The after-tax return on investments has rarely been better and the proliferation of 401(k) plans, individual retirement accounts and other tax-favored saving plans has made it more painless than ever.

Instead, Americans are saving less than ever. Indeed, according to government figures, consumers have recently been spending all of their incomes and then some. In September, the personal saving rate slipped below zero for the first time since the Great Depression. October was more of the same.

On the surface the reason seems perverse: Economists say the better people feel about their situation these days, the less likely they are to put aside extra money for the future. The seemingly imperturbable stock market, strong confidence in the economy and the ease of borrowing all help make consumers feel richer and less inclined to postpone gratification.

Some experts warn of dire consequences, but the situation may not be as bad as it looks.

Despite the drop in personal savings, the broadest measure of saving — the national saving rate, which includes not just households but corporations and the government sector — has rebounded from its low in the early 1990s.

"We have a lot of saving now compared to then," said Gary Burtless, an economist at the Brookings Institution. Investment in the U.S. capital base certainly has not suffered. For eighths have been more than happy to send America their extra savings and, given the risks abounding in the rest of the world, seem inclined to continue to do so.

Finally, the fear that consumers will react to the recent orgy of spending by suddenly turning thrifty seems overblown. Consumers are not as stretched as the saving numbers make it look. Wage and salary income is going up faster than spending, and that is what most households rely on.

One reason the official savings rate is falling is that interest income, which goes mainly to the rich, has been shrinking, dragging down overall reported income gains. Most forecasters agree, however, that each individual's own income, job situation, wealth and confidence loom far larger in household spending decisions.

Of course, many Americans are reaping a chance to get back \$2 in eight years for every \$1

they save today. That seems a trifle irrational, even for well-off citizens of a very wealthy country.

"The standard neoclassical view that people make rational trade-offs between present and future and that we're saving the amount that best suits our purpose is obviously wrong," said Robert Frank, an economist at Cornell who argues in his new book, "Luxury Fever," that Americans ought to be saving 20 percent of their incomes.

Even optimists concede that one- to two-thirds of baby-boomer households are not saving enough to maintain in retirement the lifestyles to which they have become accustomed.

Still, many economists say that focusing on the plunge in personal savings is a bit misleading.

For one thing, the personal saving rate is one of the government's least reliable statistics. That is not because the government does not count 401(k)s and pension or subtract loans. It is because saving is the difference between two very large quantities, overall personal income and overall personal spending.

Minor changes in either reported income or spending can produce huge changes in the savings rate.

MARKET: Wall Street Rallies on Expectations Clinton Will Remain in Office

Continued from Page 13

organization, a research group.

Internet stocks surged after Mary Meeker, who follows the industry for Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, told Barron's that the increase of Internet users to 80 million now from 5 million in 1995 meant that Internet stocks were good bets in the stock market.

America Online, the biggest Internet access provider, rose 11 1/4 to 116, while Yahoo!, the biggest search directory, rose 34 1/2 to 247 1/4.

Companies that provide the hardware for the Internet also surged. Cisco Systems, which makes the switches and routers that link the switches into networks, rose 4 1/4 to 94 1/4. Dell Computer, which sells PCs over the Internet and also benefits as households and businesses buy more computers, rose 4 1/2 to 71 1/2.

"As the Internet does well, they will do well," said James Greifstetter, a money manager at Federated Investors. "You're going to have higher demand for switches and routers, and you're going to have higher demand for PCs and electronics."

Onsale, which operates auctions on the Internet, rose 24 5/16 to 68 after it said it would provide pricing information to Yahoo!'s small-business Web site. Yahoo! visitors can bid on a piece of equipment by linking to the Onsale auction item from the Yahoo! site.

The Internet frenzy lifted shares of brokers that offer discount stock trading on the Web. Charles Schwab, the largest on-line broker, rose 7 1/16 to 51 1/16. E*Trade Group, No. 2 in the business, jumped 4 3/16 to 32 1/4.

Among other issues, Amgen rose 12 3/16 to 100 5/16 after it said it won all rights to a once-a-week version of its anemia drug Eprex in an arbitration battle with Johnson & Johnson. J&J dropped 2 1/16 to 76 1/16.

The new drug, which is likely to reach the market within about two

years, could win wide use in place of the current drug, which usually is taken intravenously three times a week.

International Telecommunications Data Systems, which provides

billing services for phone companies, fell 3 15/16 to 15 on concern that its contract with Alltel Communications will not be renewed after Alltel buys Alltel.

Investors and analysts will be watching a meeting Tuesday of the

Federal Open Market Committee, which sets monetary policy for the U.S. central bank. But no change in interest rates is expected.

"We've seen some signs the economy is doing OK, the turmoil in Asia has calmed down a little bit and the markets are up in general around the world," said Arthur Mischeletti, an economist and investment strategist for Baird, Biehl & Kaiser. "They're going to need more evidence the economy is slowing down" before cutting rates again.

(Reuters, Bloomberg)

Oil Price Woes Lift Venezuelan Unemployment

Compiled by Our Staff Dispatches

CARACAS — Unemployment in Venezuela has been rising in the second half of the year as the oil-based economy's plunge into recession has left more than 8 million people without jobs, the official statistics agency said Monday.

Unemployment is set to rise to 11 percent of the work force at the end of 1998 from 10.6 percent at the end of 1997, the government said.

Miguel Bolivar, director of the statistics agency, said 1.1 million people, in a work force of 9.9 million, were out of work.

Mr. Bolivar said that the number of unemployed would have been

higher had people not migrated to jobs in the informal economy — working as street vendors or at companies with fewer than five employees.

"The employment strategy for many people has turned into a strategy of survival," Mr. Bolivar said.

A tumble in the price of oil this year has pushed the economy into recession by forcing the state oil monopoly to cut production and the government to reduce spending. At the same time, interest rates have been driven higher as the currency has come under pressure.

The economy has contracted 0.7

percent this year after growing 5.9 percent in 1997, the central bank said last week.

Mr. Bolivar said the manufacturing and construction sectors had been among the hardest hit by the economic difficulties.

Announcements of layoffs at manufacturers have become common in recent months. In October a paper company, Manufacturas de Papel CA, said it had laid off 600 workers. Weeks later a steelmaker, Siderurgica del Orinoco CA, said it was laying off 150 workers as low prices and slumping sales forced it to shut three production lines.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

Very briefly:

• The Federal Trade Commission voted 4 to 0 to take Mylan Laboratories Inc., the largest U.S. maker of generic drugs, to court on antitrust charges, seeking \$120 million in consumer refunds for what the commission said were overpriced drugs.

• Levitz Furniture Corp. plans to close more than a third of its stores and to cut 25 percent of its work force in a bid to return to profit. The No. 3 U.S. furniture retailer has been operating under Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection since September 1997. About 1,000 of the company's 4,000 workers will lose their jobs.

• Dell Computer Corp. will use America Online Inc.'s on-line service as the default Internet provider on its consumer computers sold in the United States and Canada.

• Motorola Inc., the world's No. 2 cellular telephone maker, said it bought Lucent Technologies Inc.'s cellular-phone research division for an undisclosed amount.

• Torstar Corp., publisher of the Toronto Star, plans to buy four newspapers from Quebecor Inc. for more than 350 million Canadian dollars (\$226.6 million) to become No. 1 in southern Ontario in circulation.

Weekend Box Office

LOS ANGELES — You've Got Mail dominated the U.S. box office over the weekend, with a gross of 18.7 million. Following are the Top 10 money-makers, based on Saturday's ticket sales and estimated sales for Sunday.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
You've Got Mail	18.7	12.1	10.5	9.8	8.5	7.8	7.2	6.8	6.5	6.2
The Prince of Egypt	12.1	10.5	9.8	8.5	7.8	7.2	6.8	6.5	6.2	5.9
A Star Is Born	10.5	9.8	8.5	7.8	7.2	6.8	6.5	6.2	5.9	5.6
Jack Frost	9.8	8.5	7.8	7.2	6.8	6.5	6.2	5.9	5.6	5.3
Enemy of the State	8.5	7.8	7.2	6.8	6.5	6.2	5.9	5.6	5.3	5.0
The Waterboy	7.8	7.2	6.8	6.5	6.2	5.9	5.6	5.3	5.0	4.7
Miscellaneous	7.2	6.8	6.5	6.2	5.9	5.6	5.3	5.0	4.7	4.4
Raw Materials	6.8	6.5	6.2	5.9	5.6	5.3	5.0	4.7	4.4	4.1
Service	6.5	6.2	5.9	5.6	5.3	5.0	4.7	4.4	4.1	3.8
Utilities	6.2	5.9	5.6	5.3	5.0	4.7	4.4	4.1	3.8	3.5

The Trib Index		Prices as of 4:00 P.M. New York time.			
Jan. 1, 1982 = 100	Level	Change	% change	year to date % change	
World Index	200.67	+2.77	+1.40	+16.59	
Regional Indices					
Asia/Pacific	90.47	-0.66	-0.72	-5.83	
Europe	232.98	+5.52	+2.43	+20.69	
N. America	283.21	+2.17	+0.77	+31.12	
S. America	83.90	+2.82	+3.10	-45.04	
Industrial Indices					
Capital goods	298.75	+5.80	+1.96	+44.82	
Consumer goods	240.70	+0.90	+0.38	+14.77	
Energy	201.68	+1.85	+0.93	+3.45	
Financial	139.71	+2.89	+2.11	+13.62	
Miscellaneous	192.32	+3.50	+1.91	+28.32	
Raw Materials	184.29	+2.25	+1.29	-1.76	
Service	214.23	+3.72	+1.77	+22.90	
Utilities	183.81	+2.12	+1.17	+10.15	

The International Herald Tribune World Stock Index ® tracks the U.S. dollar value of 280 internationally investible stocks from 25 countries.

Compiled by Bloomberg News.

AMEX

Monday's 4 P.M. Close

The 200 most traded stocks of the day, up to the closing on Wall Street.

The Associated Press.

Stock	Sales	High	Low	Close
IBM	1,100	110 1/4	110 1/8	110 1/8
Microsoft	1,000	100 1/4	100 1/8	100 1/8
Apple	900	90 1/4	90 1/8	90 1/8
Oracle	800	80 1/4	80 1/8	80 1/8
Amazon	700	70 1/4	70 1/8	70 1/8
Yahoo	600	60 1/4	60 1/8	60 1/8
Google	500	50 1/4	50 1/8	50 1/8
Alibaba	400	40 1/4	40 1/8	40 1/8
Facebook	300	30 1/4	30 1/8	30 1/8
Twitter	200	20 1/4	20 1/8	20 1/8
LinkedIn	100	10 1/4	10 1/8	10 1/8
Slack	90	9 1/4	9 1/8	9 1/8
Dropbox	80	8 1/4	8 1/8	8 1/8
Zoom	70	7 1/4	7 1/8	7 1/8
Zoom	60	6 1/4	6 1/8	6 1/8
Zoom	50	5 1/4	5 1/8	5 1/8
Zoom	40	4 1/4	4 1/8	4 1/8
Zoom	30	3 1/4	3 1/8	3 1/8
Zoom	20	2 1/4	2 1/8	2 1/8
Zoom	10	1 1/4	1 1/8	1 1/8
Zoom	9	1 1/4	1 1/8	1 1/8
Zoom	8	1 1/4	1 1/8	1 1/8
Zoom	7	1 1/4	1 1/8	1 1/8
Zoom	6	1 1/4	1 1/8	1 1/8
Zoom	5	1 1/4	1 1/8	1 1/8
Zoom	4	1 1/4	1 1/8	1 1/8
Zoom	3	1 1/4	1 1/8	1 1/8
Zoom	2	1 1/4	1 1/8	1 1/8
Zoom	1	1 1/4	1 1/8	1 1/8

U. S. STOCK MARKET DIARY

Dec. 21, 1998

High Low Last Close Open

Dow Jones 9,088.85 9,088.85 9,088.85 9,088.85 9,088.85

S&P 500 1,161.65 1,161.65 1,161.65 1,161.65 1,161.65

Nasdaq 2,474.12 2,474.12 2,474.12 2,474.12 2,474.12

AMEX 1,161.65 1,161.65 1,161.65 1,161.65 1,161.65

20 Bonds 107.00 107.00 107.00 107.00 107.00

10 Industrials 109.54 109.54 109.54 109.54 109.54

Trading Activity

NYSE 1,161.65 1,161.65 1,161.65 1,161.65 1,161.65

AMEX 1,161.65 1,161.65 1,161.65 1,161.65 1,161.65

Market Sales

NYSE 1,161.65 1,161.65 1,161.65 1,161.65 1,161.65

AMEX 1,161.65 1,161.65 1,161.65 1,161.65 1,161.65

Dividends

Company Per Ann Rec Pay Company Per Ann Rec Pay

Allegiant Air 1.25 1.25 1.25 1.25 1.25 1.25

Amgen 1.25 1.25 1.25 1.25 1.25 1.25

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INTERNATIONAL FUTURES

Dec. 21, 1998

High Low Last Close Open

Orange Juice 100.00 100.00 100.00 100.00 100.00

Grains 100.00 100.00 100.00 100.00 100.00

Metals 100.00 100.00 100.00 100.00 100.00

Gold 100.00 100.00 100.00 100.00 100.00

Oil 100.00 100.00 100.00 100.00 100.00

Platinum 100.00 100.00 100.00 100.00 100.00

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EUROPE

Czech Capital Crunch Derails Business Dreams

By Peter S. Green
International Herald Tribune

PRAGUE—Four-year-old Filip Šimunek's eyes were wide and his head swiveled as he watched a small black locomotive whistle, puff and haul a string of freight cars around its track in a Prague shop.

"I like the coal car," Filip said as his grandfather, Jaroslav Polivka, watched. But Mr. Polivka said that Filip was too small yet for such nice trains, and besides, the price was relatively high. A boxed set of a locomotive, three wagons and some track cost 3,700 koruny (\$125), more than a week's wages for the average Czech.

High prices and low incomes in this recession-struck economy mean a disappointing Christmas for most Czech retailers, with consumer spending 20 percent below last year, according to government statistics. And that spells bad news for small Czech manufacturers like Gustav Taus, whose company, ETS, makes the metal trains that kept Filip enthralled.

Sales are flat at about 1,500 locomotives and 4,000 wagons a year, bringing in about 10 million to 12 million koruny, Mr. Taus said.

He would like to raise a few million koruny to increase production and his marketing budget at home and in valuable export markets such as the United States and Western Europe.

But for Mr. Taus and most small-business owners, it is almost impossible to find investment cash in the Czech Republic today.

When the Iron Curtain fell in 1989, Mr. Taus, a television engineer, rushed into private enterprise, building television studios and closed-circuit TV systems. But competition from Asia forced him



Filip Šimunek, 4, watching an ETS train run in a Prague shop. But his grandfather wasn't buying.

out of the television business and revived a dream of his to produce handmade electric trains using the low labor costs, good workmanship and engineering skills of Czech workers.

But the obstacle Mr. Taus faced is one that every year forces thousands of small-business owners to call it quits.

After years of easy credit for politically connected financiers and industrial behemoths, the country's troubled banks are broke. They will not lend to Czechs without collateral, and venture capital is virtually nonexistent.

"The problem was how to be a capitalist without capital," Mr. Taus said.

Using 3 million koruny of his

own and a loan from a friend, Mr. Taus set up a virtual factory in 1991, contracting out almost everything. A metalworks stamps the sheet metal and produces the blanks, which are painted and assembled into rail cars at a toy factory in low-cost East Bohemia. A cottage industry of retirees around the country makes accessories, and the electric transformers that power the trains are made by yet another company.

ETS itself has only 15 employees, who design new models and assemble special orders and more complex locomotives at a small house in a Prague suburb.

Even though two-thirds of ETS production sells for hard currency abroad, banks won't finance Mr. Taus.

"The bankers say the project is too risky," he said. "I have no other house to pledge as collateral, and they say they don't know if there's a market."

While Mr. Taus cannot find a few million koruny to expand a successful business, the two struggling manufacturers of real railway cars, Skoda, the Pilsen-based engineering giant, and CKD Praha, have asked for billions in government bailouts after nearly bankrupting the leading Czech banks.

This is an irony not lost on Mr. Taus.

Despite years of government promises to support small business, there's no money to be had, he said. For small businesses, he said, "the government is just talk, talk."

Exports Grow More Slowly In Germany

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WIESBADEN, Germany — Growth in German exports fell sharply in the third quarter as slowing sales to the rest of Europe and recessions in Japan and Russia undercut demand, the Federal Statistics Office said Monday.

Exports by Europe's largest economy grew just 3.1 percent as the economic crises in emerging markets began to take their toll. The increase marked a slowdown from export growth of 10 percent in the previous three months and 15.9 percent in the first quarter.

The biggest losses were seen in trade with Russia and Japan, with exports dropping 26.6 percent and 12 percent, respectively. But those two markets account for only 15 percent of German exports. German export growth is slowing mainly amid a weakening of demand within Europe, which buys 56 percent of German goods. Annual export growth to Europe slowed to 5.1 percent in the third quarter from 10.8 percent over the first nine months and 13.3 percent during the first half of 1998.

"The braking of the foreign markets can't be overlooked any more," said Uwe Angenendt, an economist at BHF-Bank AG in Frankfurt. "German exports are firmly in the grip of the recessions in Asia, Russia and Latin America."

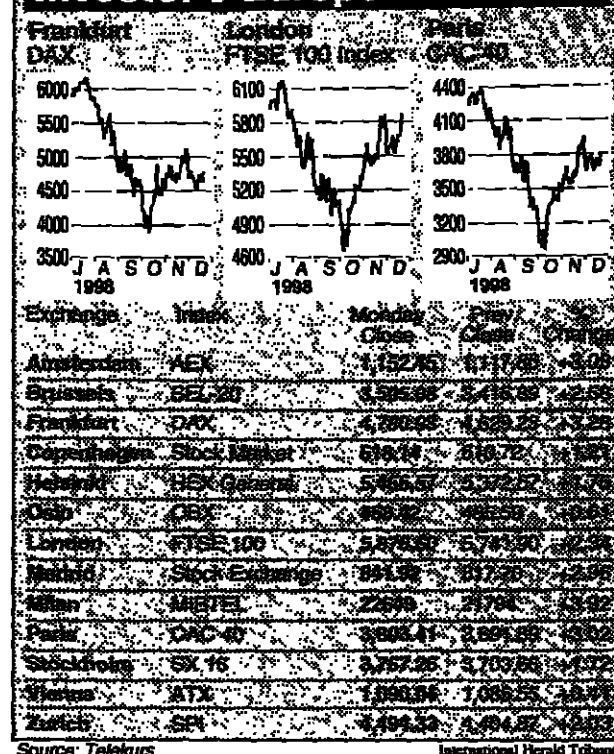
The trade figures coincided with news of accelerating import price deflation. November import prices fell 5.8 percent year on year, the ninth consecutive month of year-on-year declines. That followed a fall of 5.7 percent in October, the Office said.

The export data belie robust German economic growth in the third quarter when GDP expanded by 2.8 year-on-year, but economists say a slowdown is now under way and will become evident in data for the first three months of 1999.

"It's clear that the fourth quarter will be very weak. We expect stagnation in gross domestic product and would not be surprised if there is a contraction in quarter-on-quarter," said Frank Schroeder, an economist at HSBC Trinkaus. France was Germany's biggest trading partner in the third quarter, accounting for 11 percent of exports and 11.1 percent of imports.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

Investor's Europe



Very briefly:

• Hungary's economic growth accelerated in the third quarter to a rate of 5.6 percent from a year earlier, up from a rise of 5.1 percent in the second period. But growth in Poland slowed to 5 percent in the third quarter from 5.3 percent in the second quarter.

• Edel Music AG, a German music production company, won European licensing rights to Walt Disney Co.'s music catalog, including the soundtracks to "The Lion King" and other blockbusters.

• Ruhrgas AG of Germany will buy an additional 1.5 percent of OAO Gazprom, the Russian natural gas giant, just two days after Ruhrgas agreed to pay the Russian government \$660 million for a 2.5 percent stake in the company.

• Britain's current account, the broadest measure of the balance of trade in goods and services, moved into a surplus of £2.28 billion (\$3.83 billion) in the third quarter from a deficit of £1.33 billion in the second quarter, as a record surplus on investment income offset a widening deficit in traded goods.

• Italy's economy will show growth of 1.5 percent this year, Treasury and Budget Minister Carlo Ciampi said. It was the third time that he scaled back the growth forecast for 1998, from an initial prediction of 2.5 percent.

• Svenska Cellulosa AB, a Swedish paper company, agreed to buy a unit of Rexum PLC of Britain for £195 million (\$327.8 million), bolstering its position as the biggest European maker of corrugated packaging.

• Deutsche Bank AG is forming a strategic alliance with one of the biggest private banks in Greece, EFG Eurobank. Deutsche Bank will acquire 10 percent of Eurobank from Luxembourg-based Consolidated Eurobank Holdings, which will continue to hold 81 percent of Eurobank. Terms were not disclosed.

(Bloomberg)

Russia Offers Bank Shares to Foreign Bond Investors

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MOSCOW — Russia said Monday that it would allow foreign investors to use a third of cash proceeds from the restructuring of its defaulted Treasury bonds to buy shares in Russian banks.

Russia will continue talks Tuesday with a working group of foreign bondholders in Moscow to work out

terms that are "more attractive," said Deputy Finance Minister Mikhail Kasaynov. The Finance Ministry will also begin swapping its defaulted debt for new bonds Tuesday.

"The main reason why creditors agreed to ruble bonds was because they thought they would be allowed to invest in Russia," Mr. Kasaynov said. "Now they feel that the op-

portunities are not sufficient."

The talks on the terms of restructuring 281 billion rubles (\$13.57 billion) in defaulted debt broke off in London last week after foreign creditors said they wanted more opportunities to invest in equity and to convert ruble proceeds into dollars.

Mr. Kasaynov said Monday that foreigners would not be allowed to

use the new paper to invest in industrial concerns.

Also Monday, the French Association of Russian Bond Holders said it has taken legal action to recover 10 billion French francs (\$1.79 billion) as a first step toward recovering debt issued prior to the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution.

(Bloomberg, Bridge News)

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(Bloomberg, Reuters)

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

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Moody's Outlook Lifts South Korean Markets

"I would not say that the current stock market jubilation was a bubble, but there will be a sharp correction in the short to medium term," said Tae Jung of SG Securities. (Reuters, AFP)

While foreign-exchange reserves have surged to record highs, liquidity has improved and the won has strengthened, fundamental faults still lurk in the real economy, analysts said.

Japan's Trade Surplus Falls For 1st Time in Nearly 2 Years

Since the yen has weakened and demand has dried up at home, Japan has relied on strong exports to keep the economy afloat.

EYE ON THE ROAD — Hiroyuki Yoshino, Honda Motor's president, predicting a 7 percent jump in domestic sales for next year.

Japan Seeks to Spend Its Way Out of Slump

By Sheryl WuDunn
New York Times Service

year. That is second only to the debt of Italy, which is bringing that burden down, just as Japan's debt is rising.

economic Planning Agency, told reporters that unemployment, now at a record 4.3 percent, might continue to rise for a while before slipping again in the second half of next year.

Very briefly:

Bloomber, Reuters

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For information please contact,
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The data in the list above is the data supplied by the fund groups to Standard & Poor's Microcap SA. It is collated and reformatted into the list before being transmitted to the IHT. Standard & Poor's Microcap and the IHT do not warrant the quality or accuracy of the list, the date of the performance of the Fund Groups and will not be liable for the date of Fund Group to any extent. The list is not and shall not be deemed to be an offer by the IHT or Standard & Poor's Microcap to sell securities or investments of any kind. Investments can fall as well as rise. Past performance does not guarantee future success. It is advisable to seek advice from a qualified independent adviser before

U.S. fund management companies finally may be coming to grips with the fact that 5,250-plus stock and bond mutual funds are more than their customers — or they themselves — need. The number of stock and bond funds marketed in the United States has risen 3.7 percent in 1998, but the gain was about one-quarter the annual increase of 1996 and 1997. The slowdown comes as fund managers merge the assets of hundreds of existing funds with similarly managed funds and liquidate others because of poor performance. The slowdown in fund proliferation is occurring after five years of sharp growth, a period when the industry's assets ballooned to \$5 billion from \$2.1 billion. (Bloomberg, NYT)

By David Barboza
New York Times Service

"In the last 18 months, we've seen a real surge in the older generation," said Blake Darcey, chief executive of DLJ Direct, the fast-growing on-line brokerage unit of Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette.

The rush of seniors to on-line investing begins, of course, with computers and Internet access. The Schwab survey found that 40 percent of people over 50 had a home computer, up from 29 percent three years ago, and that 70 percent of those had Internet access at home, up from 17 percent in 1995. Jupiter Communications says more than 7 million people 55 or older were on-line this year, up from 3.8 million just two years ago. By 2002, the number is expected to grow to nearly 11 million.

By Jason Singer
Bloomington News

"What you're seeing is that assets that multinationals have wanted to buy for years are becoming available," said David Anderson, man-

A total of \$35.8 billion of mergers have been completed so far this year in Asia, including Australia and excluding Japan, IFR Securities Data said. About \$44.2 billion of transactions have been announced, some of which may be completed before the end of the year. Even with those, Goldman is still set to take the top slot, the data firm said.

"Next year, I think you're going to see tremendous capital inflows," said Clive McDonnell, head of economic research at a Hong Kong unit of Societe Generale SA. "The due diligence for merger activity in the region has been done this year, so next year we'll start to see the money actually coming in."

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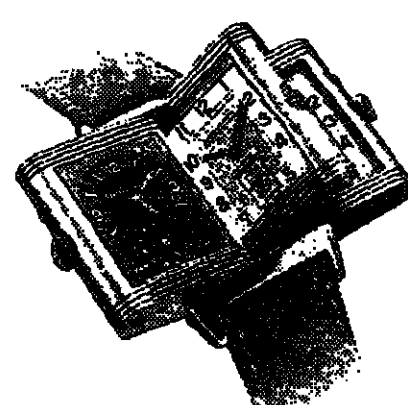
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The Associated Press.

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NYSE

Monday's 4 P.M. Close
(Continued)

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SPORTS

Just Who Are the Members of the Arcane IOC?

Bribery Allegations Suddenly Raise International Olympic Committee's Visibility

By Christopher Clarey
International Herald Tribune

SEVILLE, Spain — The International Olympic Committee has 102 male members and 12 female members. It has royalty with seniority and royalty with only a few months on the job.

It has four generals from Africa, two brothers from Mexico, lots of businesspeople and lawyers from all corners of the world and a few bona fide Olympic heroes such as Jean-Claude Killy, the French skier, Anton Geesink, the Dutch judoist and Vera Caslavskaya, the Czech gymnast.

It also has a serious problem: It is under internal and external scrutiny because of allegations that members have accepted bribes in return for votes for cities vying to host the Games. While the IOC has never been eager to allow more than glimpses into its workings, curiosity is now rising rapidly.

Just what is the IOC? How does one become a member? How does one become an influential member? And who are the members of this organization that has existed since June 1894 when Baron Pierre de Coubertin of France called a meeting in a Paris auditorium that was appropriately decorated with neo-classical murals?

Two members are Americans: Anita DeFrantz, a sports administrator and former Olympic rower who is the highest-ranking woman in an organization that did not elect female members until 1981; and James Easton, a sporting-goods manufacturer and president of the International Archery Federation.

Italy, with nowhere near the population or commercial clout of the United States, has four members: Ottavio Cingenta, president of the International Skiing Union; Primo Nebiolo, president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation; Franco Carraro and Mario Pescante, who re-

cently resigned as president of the Italian Olympic Committee because of a scandal involving a discredited drug-testing laboratory in Rome. Pescante remains a perquisite-enjoying member of the IOC.

There have indeed been perks: first-class flights to the cities that bid for the Olympics every two years and first-class treatment in those locales; choice

after helping NBC, the U.S. network, negotiate television contracts. Shamil Tarpiyev of Russia was once Boris Yeltsin's private tennis coach and later became Russia's minister of sports. Prince Albert of Monaco is a former Olympic bobsledder and provides a bit of glitter for Samaranch, who has a weakness for aristocrats and holds the title of marquis himself.

Other royal members include Princess Anne of Britain, an Olympic gold medalist in equestrian events who is no Samaranch fan, and Prince Faisal Fahd Abdulaziz of Saudi Arabia's ruling family. Prince Henri of Luxembourg and the Prince of Orange of the Netherlands were voted in last winter. There is no official nomination process for members, although the Soviet Union did once, essentially impose a member, Konstantin Andrianov, in 1951.

The IOC relishes its independence, which was one of Coubertin's primary concerns because he believed the ancient games had been destroyed by outside influences. The Olympic charter states that IOC members are "its representatives in their respective countries and not delegates of their countries within the IOC."

"It's true that the IOC has always seemed very anachronistic," said Maurice Herzog of France, who retired in 1994 after 24 years in the IOC. "It lives among itself. The members are like cardinals in the Vatican. Governments come and go, it doesn't matter to us."

Of the 114 current members, 48 are from Europe, 21 from the Americas, 20 from Africa, 20 from Asia and 5 from Oceania.

"We function as a state," Samaranch said recently. "We have a president, a government in the form of the executive board, a parliament in the form of the general membership and an administration which is rather youthful and works well."

The executive board, created in 1921 and known within the IOC as the "EB,"

is essentially the organization's board of directors. Made up of 11 members, including Samaranch and four vice presidents, it meets four times a year and manages the IOC's affairs, overseeing finances, presenting proposals to the session for changes in rules or bylaws, and, perhaps most important, deciding which new members to propose to the session. These new members are generally approved by acclamation and not by a formal vote, which is a clear indication of the influence of Samaranch and the executive board.

Executive board members are elected by the session in a secret ballot.

Terms last four years and the executive board includes long-influential members such as Dick Pound of Canada, Pal Schmidt of Hungary, Judge Keba Mbaye of Senegal, Kevan Gosper of Australia, Kim Un Yong of South Korea — a former embassy intelligence officer who is head of the World Taekwondo Federation — and Marc Hodler of Switzerland, who made a series of allegations about corruption in the Olympic voting process at an executive board meeting in Lausanne earlier this month.

Despite the continuity that characterizes the IOC, Samaranch has reshaped the body in the last five years, adding 42 members and bringing the total membership well above 100. Many of the new members are sports administrators or federation presidents whom Samaranch wanted in the fold to ensure the IOC's continued relevance.

"The mass of new members has changed the family feeling within the IOC quite a bit," Herzog said. "I think it's positive because we have to be associated with the international federations. But the discreet side, the Vatican side of the IOC, has changed a lot. These are sports professionals coming in."

Samaranch said during the weekend that IOC members will no longer be allowed to visit cities bidding for the Olympics. The Associated Press reported from London. He did not elaborate.

Maier Leads Home Sweep Of Super-G at Innsbruck

INNSBRUCK, Austria — Hermann Maier followed in the tracks of his hero Franz Klammer, leading a record Austrian sweep of the top nine places in a World Cup Super-G in front of 20,000 cheering fans on Monday.

It was the first major race on Innsbruck's Patscherkofel slope since Klammer's downhill run for 1976 Olympic gold. In the race on Monday, the Austrians gave the most dominant performance by one country in 31 years of World Cup history.

French women had held the previous record when they took the top six spots in a downhill in Abetone, Italy, in 1968.

"I was miles away from the ideal line," said Maier. "I was so tired and was so wide going around the gates, I

felt and must have looked like Franz Klammer in the '76 Olympics."

Skiers who compete in multiple disciplines have had a punishing schedule with four races — two downhill and one giant slalom in Italy as well as the Innsbruck Super-G — in four days.

Maier picked up his third season victory with a time of 1 minute, 23.52 seconds, to take the lead in the overall standings from Lasse Kjus of Norway. Maier beat Christian Mayer by 0.76 seconds, while Fritz Strobl, who was the 45th man down the course, edged Stephan Eberharter out of third. The top non-Austrian was Lasse Paulsen of Norway, with a time of 1:24.53.

Fog and heavy overnight snow forced the postponement of a World Cup women's Super-G event in Megeve, France, on Monday.

SCOREBOARD

ICE HOCKEY

NHL Standings

Atlantic Division	W	L	T	Pts	GA
New Jersey	12	1	2	26	76
Philadelphia	14	9	3	31	76
Pittsburgh	12	8	7	31	72
N.Y. Rangers	11	12	2	24	86
N.Y. Islanders	12	19	1	25	92

Central Division

W	L	T	Pts	GA
St. Louis	11	12	2	74
Chicago	14	6	3	79
San Jose	14	6	3	79
Edmonton	14	12	2	82
Phoenix	14	17	2	82

Western Division

W	L	T	Pts	GA
Colorado	12	12	2	82
Calgary	11	12	2	75
Los Angeles	9	17	2	81
Vancouver	9	17	2	81
San Jose	9	17	2	81

NFL Standings

AFC	W	L	T	Pts	PA
Pittsburgh	11	4	1	23	254
San Francisco	9	5	0	19	224
Indianapolis	9	5	0	19	224
Denver	9	5	0	19	224
Atlanta	9	5	0	19	224

FOOTBALL

U.S. College Scores

U.S. College Scores

U.S. College Scores	W	L	T	Pts	PA
Notre Dame	11	4	1	23	254
Stanford	9	5	0	19	224
Michigan	9	5	0	19	224
Ohio State	9	5	0	19	224
Alabama	9	5	0	19	224

CRICKET

CRICKET

CRICKET

CRICKET	W	L	T	Pts	PA
England	11	4	1	23	254
West Indies	9	5	0	19	224
Australia	9	5	0	19	224
South Africa	9	5	0	19	224
India	9	5	0	19	224

SOCCER

SOCCER

SOCCER

SOCCER	W	L	T	Pts	PA
France	11	4	1	23	254
Italy	9	5	0	19	224
Spain	9	5	0	19	224
Germany	9	5	0	19	224
Sweden	9	5	0	19	224

TRANSITIONS

TRANSITIONS

TRANSITIONS

TRANSITIONS	W	L	T	Pts	PA
USA	11	4	1	23	254
Canada	9	5	0	19	224
Mexico	9	5	0	19	224
Argentina	9	5	0	19	224
Brazil	9	5	0	19	224

SKIING

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SKIING

SKIING	W	L	T	Pts	PA
USA	11	4	1	23	254
Canada	9	5	0	19	224
Mexico	9	5	0	19	224
Argentina	9	5	0	19	224
Brazil	9	5	0	19	224

DENNIS THE MENACE



"SCUSE ME, BUT CAN YOU HELP ME TALK MY MOM INTO BUYING THIS?"

PEANUTS



"I NEED YOUR ADVICE, CHARLIE BROWN..."

WIZARD OF ID



"I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW SANTA RUNS HIS OPERATION. HOW CAN HE AFFORD TO GIVE THIS ANNY?"

NON SEQUITUR



"THE KING WAS ONCE CAPTURED BY A BAND OF CANNIBALS!"

DOONESBURY



"HOW DID HE SWEAT THAT?"

BEETLE BAILEY



"IF YOU PEEK AT YOUR PRESENT, I'LL TELL SANTA."

JUMBLE

Unscramble the letters to find the words in the list below.

LEBIE
LOGOD
MOUVE
DYFLON

Answers: LEBIE, LOGOD, MOUVE, DYFLON

Answers: LEBIE, LOGOD, MOUVE, DYFLON

Answers: LEBIE, LOGOD, MOUVE, DYFLON

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Answers: LEBIE, LOGOD, MOUVE, DYFLON

ART BUCHWALD

And for the Sequel?

NEW YORK — The meeting took place in the office of the head of Zenith Pictures.

Attending was Robert Voldish, the studio head; Gerry Lezell, a screenwriter; and her agent, Michael Overt. "Give it to me fast," Voldish says. "My trainer hates for me to be late."

"This is a Washington picture," Bob. But it has a lot of twists.

"I know all about Washington pictures. The president commits a sexual act and lies about it, so Congress impeaches him and the country goes to hell. I've got 30 scripts with the same theme."

"Wait, Bob," says Overt. "This is different. The president in our story has an affair with a female Secret Service agent and is caught by an intern in the war room in a compromising situation. She is appalled and goes to Helen Thomas and tells her everything."

Gerry picks it up. "That is where the script departs from others. Confronted by the intern's story, the president goes on Barbara Walters's

show and confesses what he has done. He apologizes to his wife, to the country and to the Secret Service, not necessarily in that order."

Voldish says, "That's great. But what's your second act?"

Gerry says, "Nobody will believe him. The Republicans accuse him of trying to get the sympathy of the country by confessing to a high crime and misdemeanor he didn't commit. They demand he resign unless he admits he made the whole thing up."

"The Democrats leak stories to the press that the president has had affairs with other women, so he would never lie about this one."

Overt says, "Our story is about what happens to someone in the White House when he tells the truth and no one will believe him."

Bob says, "It is different. Who plays the president?"

"Tom Hanks," the agent replies. "Sharon Stone would be the Secret Service agent, and Nicole Kidman would portray the president's wife. Believe me, we're talking 'Titanic' grosses."

"Does the president get impeached?"

Gerry replies, "Doesn't every body?"

The Return of D'Oyly Carte

New York Times Service

LONDON — The D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, named for Richard D'Oyly Carte, who commissioned William S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan in 1875 to write a one-act opera, "Trial by Jury," is putting down roots again in London.

After a century at the Savoy Theatre, the company ground to a halt in 1982, and six years later it was resurrected, in Birmingham, England.

Now, for the first time in 10 years, it is appearing in London's West End, opening on Monday night at the Queen's Theatre with a production of "The Pirates of Penzance," which will run through Jan. 9.

In Search of a Poet Laureate: Anyone Interested?

By Sarah Lyall
New York Times Service

LONDON — The job pays about \$165 a year, plus a case of Spanish sherry. It is meant to be a great honor, but is often considered faintly embarrassing. In the last 15 years it has required an unironic belief in the grave national importance of events like the wedding of the Duke of York and Sarah Ferguson.

Why on earth would anyone want to be Britain's poet laureate?

"That would be my question as well," said Christopher Reid, poetry editor at Faber & Faber, which publishes some of Britain's best-known poetry. "It seems to me a pretty pointless kind of job."

With the death in October of Ted Hughes, the poet laureate since 1984, the position and the job description are now wide open. While some of Britain's higher-profile poets have removed their names from consideration with all the passion of teenagers who think the student council is for nerdy teacher's pets, others are gently letting it be known that if appointed, they would serve.

Perhaps the most frequently mentioned candidate is Andrew Motion, a poet, critic and biographer who is the professor of creative writing at the University of East Anglia. In the last 18 months he has raised his own profile and helped bring poetry to the public's attention by publishing poems in national newspapers marking the deaths of Diana, Princess of Wales, and Hughes, a longtime friend.

Other poets in the running are Wendy Cope, whose work tends to poke fun at pretension, particularly that of other poets; Benjamin Zephaniah, who attacks social injustice in often playful tones that draw heavily on West Indian speech and culture; and U.A. Fanthorpe, who seemed to all but apply for the post when she was moved to publish "A Brief Resumé at 50," an ode to Prince Charles on his birthday, in The Guardian.

For reasons of its own, The

Guardian has taken up Fanthorpe's candidacy, encouraging her to submit poems for every occasion. (Last week it published her poem about road rage.) "She's liked by people who don't read any poetry, and she's accessible," said the newspaper's deputy arts editor, Fintona Gibbons, who went on, rather confusingly, to say that the "job is about producing embarrassingly bad poetry."

Spurred by Fanthorpe's new high profile, William Hill, Britain's biggest betting agency, has raised her chances of being made laureate to 16-1, from 50-1.

The agency's favorite candidate is Motion, with odds of 6-1, followed closely by Cope (4-1) and James Fenton (5-1), the professor of poetry at Oxford University, who appeared to rule himself out when he told The Observer of London, "I can think of people who

would want to take the job, other than myself." Similarly, Craig Raine, another Oxford poet (25-1), exclaimed, "Oh, God, no," before hanging up the telephone.

What exactly would the new laureate do, at a time when old views of Britain and the monarchy that serves as its figurehead are rapidly changing? Some people in the poetry world say the time has come to give the post an overhaul, perhaps creating an American-style laureate.

In the United States, the laureate serves for one year at a time, gets an office with a view of the Capitol and earns a respectable salary of \$35,000. (Hughes's job as poet laureate earned him half as much a year as Britain's first official laureate, John Dryden — and £200 went a lot further in the 17th century.)

Maybe Britain's laureate should serve for a fixed term instead of until death, critics say. And maybe

he or she should be explicitly freed from the job's chief unstated burden: churning out quick poetry that harkens back to the days when poets depended on the patronage of the monarch, celebrates events like royal birthdays and royal weddings.

Although the job has been filled over the years by some of Britain's poetic heavyweights, including Ben Jonson, who held the post unofficially, as well as Dryden, Tennyson, Wordsworth, Cecil Day-Lewis and John Betjeman, it has rarely inspired their best work.

John Masfield, who beat out Rudyard Kipling for the job in 1930, suffered under the impression that he had to compose an ode to mark the monarch's return to Britain after each foreign trip. He also had such low regard for his talent that when he submitted his poems to The Times of London, the laureate's de facto house organ, he

always enclosed a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Perhaps the most notorious example of laureate poetry came during an illness of the Prince of Wales, who later became King Edward VII. The laureate, Alfred Austin, who took the job in 1896, is said, perhaps apocryphally, to have written:

Across the wires the electric message came

"He is no better, he is much the same."

Hughes became laureate after another poet, Philip Larkin, turned the job down. Although he was considered a great poet whose reputation was immortalized by his last work, "Birthday Letters" and "Tales From Ovid," Hughes generally confounded his supporters with his royal poems.

When Prince Andrew, the Duke of York, married Ferguson, Hughes wrote, among other things: "A helicopter snatched you up. The pilot, it was me." (The marriage ended in divorce.) On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's coronation, he said her curls were the same color as the Lion of England. And when the queen mother turned 95, he likened her to an old oak tree whose "crown of oak leaves amplifies/ A global marketplace."

The writer and critic Blake Morrison, who admired Hughes, said: "It did him no good. I think his reputation went backward as a result of being laureate. People ridiculed him. Even his admirers found his laureate poems impenetrable or disappointing, and then, thank God, he produced some wonderful work in the last three years."

Perhaps, said the poet Tom Paulin (33-1), the post should be redefined "as a way of embodying a kind of multicultural national spirit" that would reflect, rather than ignore, contemporary Britain.

"One imagines a Virgilian poet in a postmodern era," he said. "Would he consider taking the job? 'Oh, absolutely not, no,' he said. 'I wouldn't; not at all, no.'"



Alexander Nemov/Agence France Press

PRIZE MUSICIAN — The German violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter, the winner of this year's Shostakovich Award, performing in Moscow.

AFTER less than two years on the job, the first woman conductor of the Vienna Boys Choir is gone. What caused the break between Agnes Grossmann and the "Old Boys" — the former choir members who run the organization — depends on who is telling the story. Grossmann says she quit after a successful North American tour because she was "running up against a wall" of resistance to her ideas. She wanted to add a fifth choir to help spread the workload of about 300 concerts a year now shared by four choirs of about 25 boys each, but the president and board of directors said no. In addition, Grossmann says the board refused to consider her suggestions that the mostly self-supporting organization seek sponsors and state support. The choir's president, Karl-Heinz Schenk, faults Grossmann for the performance burden, saying she scheduled too many concerts and demanded too much from the boys. And he says the issue of financing fell outside her job as artistic director. "The trouble with Mrs. Grossmann is at some point she began to believe that she personally was the Vienna

Boys Choir," Schenk said. The public feud has marred celebrations marking the choir's 500th year.

So how did Assistant Secretary of State James Rubin chip his ankle during a recent Paris trip? Seems he and his wife, Christiane Amanpour, now CNN's Baghdad anchor, were trying to

hail a cab and not having luck. She was getting miffed. He decided to do a Gene Kelly "Singin' in the Rain" bit to cheer her up. Rubin was dancing in the street, when he jumped over a pile of boxes and landed on his ankle. Next thing you know, he's in the hospital.

Rome's mayor, Francesco Rutelli, is

demanding that an out-of-town youth who carved initials in a newly restored statue of a lion in the city's Piazza del Popolo spend three days cleaning up the square. Less than two weeks after the mayor banned cars from the piazza, the 17-year-old student was caught by security guards vandalizing the lion on a stone fountain. The youth, who had come to Rome to join a protest against public funds for private schools, told the police he was carving his girlfriend's initials.

The Last Dance at the Rainbow Room

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — It was a place so classy that Keith Richards wore a necktie. A place so full of stars that one evening Bob Dylan and Frank Sinatra came separately for drinks, and the maitre d' sat down next to Bob Hope at Rosemary Clooney's wedding.

But the Rainbow Room has danced its last dance. For the first time since a big remodeling in the 1980s, there won't be a stroke-of-midnight conga line snaking through the club on New Year's Eve. After 64 years, the gilded, glass-walled supper club that boasted breathtaking views from the 65th floor has closed because of a dispute over a new lease.

The new leaseholder is the Cipriani family, which plans to open a smaller space similar to Harry's Bar in Venice, which the family also owns, and turn the rest of the multiroom complex into private banquet rooms.

The last two descendants of Alexis Zorbas, the legendary traveler whose lust for life inspired the character "Zorba the Greek," have been awarded Greek citizenship. At a recent ceremony, Zorbas's grandchildren, Anna Geiger, 57, and Vangelis Yantis, 63, became Greek citizens though both live in Belgrade, Yugoslavia's capital. Zorbas became famous when he was portrayed by Anthony Quinn in the 1964 movie "Zorba the Greek," based on the book by the Cretan-born author Nikos Kazantzakis.

(take in a rock show)

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